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# THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES

AND

# THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

BY A SCHOLAR OF

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

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"Students come [to Queen's College, Cork,] so badly prepared in what may be called the ordinary instruments of thought, and in ancient and modern languages, in a word, in every part of school work, that they follow the University course only in a limping and unsatisfactory manner. . . .

"The professor is consequently obliged either to lecture over the heads of a large part of his class, or to divide it into the instructed and the uninstructed."—*Report of the President of Queen's College, Cork, for the Session 1880-81.*

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE Papers now revised for publication in this pamphlet were originally published in the Dublin *Freeman's Journal*, in the months of October, November, and December, of last year.

It will be seen that the writer, while in the main confining himself to the statement of facts, had throughout in view the advocacy of a certain line of action.

He was of opinion that the publication, from official records, of the facts thus set forth, was the most efficient means of directing public attention to the existence of a great grievance under which the Catholics of Ireland still labour in the matter of University Education.

Since the present Prime Minister made, in 1873, his noteworthy declaration, that the state of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, in reference to University Education, was "miserably bad," "scandalously bad," something substantial has, no doubt, been done. The Royal University of Ireland has been established, with an endowment of £20,000 a year<sup>1</sup>—a University, access to the Degrees, Honours, and

<sup>1</sup> It is, however, to be borne in mind that the endowment of the Royal University is drawn from a purely Irish fund—the surplus fund of the disestablished Irish Church. The Queen's University in Ireland was maintained by an annual grant of more than £4,000 out of the Imperial Treasury. All the duties discharged by that University were, as a matter of course, transferred to the Royal University by the Act of 1879. But the grant of £4,000 was not transferred: it was simply stopped, and the whole burthen of maintaining the new University was thrown upon the already overburthened Irish fund.

Strange to say, this extraordinary feature of the present University

Prizes of which, so far at least as the regulations of the University itself are concerned, is as free to Catholic as to non-Catholic students. But it would be a grievous mistake to suppose that the establishment of the Royal University—useful as that institution has proved, up to a certain point—has secured the attainment of the object, the need of which seemed to constitute the chief reason for the destruction of an established University, and the creation of a new one.

We learn on the high authority of his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, in his opening speech as Chancellor of the Royal University at its inaugural meeting last November, that one of the objects, if not the main object, of the establishment of that University was to put an end to a state of things in which “the higher education of the Roman Catholic youth of Ireland was subject to many and great disadvantages.” “By the institution we are inaugurating to-day,” continued his Grace, “a field is opened to them in which they may compete, without let or hindrance *or disadvantage*, with the whole body of their fellow countrymen, in every branch of literature and science, and *with all the substantial rewards open to them* that crown success in those departments.”

Has this object, then, really been attained? Unquestionably not. And it is the aim of the writer of the Papers here republished to call attention to the necessity that exists for speedily taking measures to attain it by removing at least one palpable “disadvantage” that still

arrangements in Ireland seems to have attracted little notice. This is the more strange as Lord Cairns when introducing the Bill of 1879 in the House of Lords expressly declared that “the vote of Parliament” which had up to that time been “taken for the expenses of the Queen’s University,” would, “*of course*, apply itself to the new University.” (*Hansard*, vol. 248, page 942.)



exists—a disadvantage that can be removed only by really throwing open to the youth of Ireland the “substantial rewards” at present maintained by Parliament for the exclusive benefit of the students of the three Queen’s Colleges.

When the University Bill of 1879 was under discussion in the House of Lords it was well observed by an eminent peer, that “logical,” “constitutional,” and “righteous,” as is the claim of the majority of the Queen’s Irish subjects to educational equality, the full concession of that claim is rendered difficult “because of sectarian and party prejudice, which makes men slow to recognise the right of others to think as freely as themselves.”<sup>1</sup> Fortunately, then, for the interests of justice, the case now stands on other grounds.

It is no longer a mere question of justice to Irish Catholics. It need not indeed any longer be regarded as a religious question in any sense of the word. It is no doubt a question in the satisfactory settlement of which more than one important religious denomination has proclaimed itself interested; for the demand for such a settlement is pressed no less strongly from the halls of Magee College, Londonderry, than from those of the Colleges of the Catholic University. But Presbyterians as well as Catholics are now in a position to press their claim irrespective of all consideration of religious disability. They do not indeed lose sight of the strong argument in defence of their common cause, furnished by the telling question of the eloquent speaker whose words have just been quoted. “What have we,” they might ask, “but penalties still imposed for the free exercise of conscience, and premiums

<sup>1</sup> See the speech of the Right Hon. Lord O’Hagan, *Hansard*, vol. 247, page 1838.

still bestowed for the profession of particular opinions?"<sup>1</sup> But whatever sympathy this mode of stating their case might win for them, they prefer to rest their claim on other grounds. They appeal to the official records of the Royal University Examinations. And they call upon Parliament to put an end to the scandal of maintaining by a lavish outlay of public money, the "literary" and "scientific" Scholarships, at present maintained from year to year at an annual cost of thousands of pounds, to be distributed by the authorities of the Queen's Colleges as "consolation" prizes among their own students who have been unsuccessful, and in many cases ignominiously unsuccessful, in the open competition of the Royal University.

"As matters now stand,"—I quote from the address of Professor Leebody, the President of Faculty, delivered at the close of the recent session in Magee College, Londonderry<sup>2</sup>—"a student of the Queen's Colleges, after having been coached at the expense of the State, can compete freely in the University Examinations with the students of unendowed colleges for Exhibition prizes. If he wins one of these, well and good—if not, he has only to return to his college and there find provided for him at the public expense a consolation prize, as valuable as, or more valuable than that for which he unsuccessfully competed. . . .

"What ought to be done in the matter, and what ought to be done at the earliest opportunity, is this: *The entire sum now granted to the Queen's Colleges for Scholarships and Prizes should be added to the University Prize Fund.*

"Ordinary justice demands this, and will be satisfied with no less. I will go further and say, that he is no true

<sup>1</sup> See Hansard, *ibid*, page 1841.

<sup>2</sup> This most able and interesting address is published in full in the *Londonderry Standard* of Thursday, April 5, 1883.

friend of the Queen's Colleges who seeks to secure for them exceptional privileges, the possession of which can only eventuate in rousing against them the antagonism of every Irishman who is a lover of freedom and fair play."

Whether the claim thus stated by the Presbyterian President of Faculty in Londonderry is one that, in the interests of higher education in Ireland, can be safely set aside, is a question that may be answered without much difficulty in the light now thrown by the official lists of the Royal University Examinations upon the working of this strange system of Parliamentary endowment for the maintenance of College Scholarships so happily described by Professor Leebody as "consolation" prizes.

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# THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES AND THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

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## I.

### EXAMINATIONS OF THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY AS YET UNOPENED TO PUBLIC COMPETITION.<sup>1</sup>

The following is the first portion of an Analysis of the Official Lists of the Degrees, Honours, and Exhibitions awarded at the Examinations recently held by the Royal University.

We purpose to divide our Analysis of those lists into two sections. The division is naturally suggested by the fact that of the five Examinations, of which the results are now published—corresponding to the five stages of the University course—three were of necessity confined exclusively to students, past or present, of the Queen's Colleges; the remaining two were open to outsiders.

The two "open" Examinations were (1) the Matriculation, and (2) the First University Examination.

The three others, in which, for the present year, Queen's College students alone could compete, were (3) the Second University Examination, (4) the Examination for the Degree of B.A., and (5) the Examination for the Degree of M.A.

In this first Paper, then, we shall confine our attention to the three Examinations of this second class. The "open" Examinations we reserve for the second section of our Analysis.

Thus, then, we have at present to deal with the Royal University lists in reference only to the light that they may

<sup>1</sup> From the *Freeman's Journal* of Monday, October 30th, 1882.



throw on the success or failure of the three Queen's Colleges as educational institutions maintained at a cost to the public of about £26,000 a year, and on their relative success or failure, when compared, not with the unendowed colleges of Ireland, but with one another.

Let us take, then, in the first place, the two Degree Examinations in Arts—those for the Degrees of M.A. and of B.A. The results of those Examinations are recorded in the official lists of the Royal University as follows:—

|   | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|---|---------|------|--------|
| Number of Graduates admitted to M.A. from each College. ... | 2       | 2    | 4      |
| Number admitted to B.A. ...                                 | 23      | 13   | 9      |
| TOTAL ...   | 25      | 15   | 13     |

Here, then, we have the unimpeachable testimony of a public official record that, as regards the number of its Arts' graduates, the Queen's College in Cork, the success of which has been so loudly and so boastfully proclaimed in recent years, stands but nominally in advance of its sister institution in Galway, for the abolition of which, as a hopeless failure, provision was made by the present Prime Minister in his University Bill<sup>1</sup> of 1873. Thirteen successful candidates for the Degree of B.A. is assuredly a poor result in a College sustained for University purposes at a cost to the State not far short of £10,000 a year.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Gladstone, it will be remembered, in his speech made on the introduction of the Bill of 1873, in explaining this portion of his scheme, dwelt especially on the small number of Arts students, and the consequently large cost to the country for each Arts graduate, in the Galway College.

<sup>2</sup> It is worth noting that the present President of Queen's College, Cork, in an able analysis of the condition of the three Queen's Colleges, published in 1866, very decidedly refused to accept the number of students attending the *professional* schools, of medicine, engineering, &c., or the

Let us now take the Honour Lists of these two examinations.

Of the eight successful candidates for the M.A. degree, *none* succeeded in attaining 1st Honours; the number to whom 2nd Honours were awarded is *two*. On this subject, however, it would be unfair to make any unfavourable comment. It has been pointed out by a distinguished graduate of the Queen's University that the Senate of that University, at their meeting, in February, 1882, conferred by special grace the degree of M.A. on all those who had, in the preceding year, or previously, obtained the degree of B.A. with Honours.<sup>1</sup> Those, therefore, who presented

number of *professional* graduates, as a satisfactory test of the educational action of a College. "The true tests of the educational action of the colleges" he very properly declared to be the "academical degrees proper," that is to say, the degrees of B.A. and M.A. (*University Education in Ireland*, Dublin, 1866.)

<sup>1</sup> The reference to this proceeding of the Senate of the Queen's University suggests that it may not be inappropriate to transcribe the account of it given by Professor Leebody in his closing address as President of Faculty in Magee College, Londonderry. Having referred to the omission of the Queen's University, "while its mountain stood strong," to confer honorary degrees on its own distinguished alumni, Dr. Leebody goes on to say:—

"But a remarkable, and, we shall say, very genuine desire to make amends for past neglect, was manifest when the institution was in the article of death. Repentance there was, undoubtedly, but in what manner were the works meet for repentance brought forth?"

"The answer to this question is matter of history. By the intolerable blundering of those who had charge of the preparation of the list of honourmen, the tragedy was turned into a farce. The proceedings of the final meeting of the Senate were doubtless meant to be impressive, and yet the process of formally and solemnly conferring University degrees on men *who had been ten or fifteen years dead*, was regarded by many as not impressive. Newspaper critics had an excellent handle for their mirth, one irreverent wag comparing the wind-up of the University to the Last Judgment, inasmuch as we had 'the worthy and the unworthy, the quick and the dead,' drawn up in long array to receive their final award.

"The proceedings undoubtedly gave some point to the sneer that it was peculiarly characteristic of the Queen's University neither to know, nor care, whether its graduates were above ground or under, and resulted in the fortunate, or unfortunate, recipients of honorary degrees, who happened to be alive; and in Ireland, being obliged to move about for a little while in a mingled atmosphere of condolences, congratulations, and 'chaff.'"

Dr. Leebody himself, it is right to add, was one who, in this strange company, was most deservedly honoured by the University. He had been a Master of Arts, and received at this final meeting of the Senate the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

themselves for the degree of M.A. at the recent examinations of the Royal University could hardly have been expected to pass the examination with special distinction.

In the Honour List of the B.A. examination, of the 44 who passed, 5 were admitted to 1st Honours. Of these, *four* were from Belfast; only *one* from Cork. In this examination the total number admitted to Honours was 16, of whom *eight* were from Belfast, *six* from Cork, and *two* from Galway.

The remaining list of this section of the examinations is that of the examination technically known as the Second University Examination in Arts. This practically represents the educational work of the second year of the University course.

Here the combined efforts of *the three Queen's Colleges* have resulted in *passing* only *fifty-six* students! Of these, as might be expected, more than half were from Belfast, the numbers being thus divided :—

|         |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Belfast | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Galway  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Cork    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Total   |     |     |     |     | 56 |

Thus it is plain that, from whatever cause, the failure of the Queen's College, Cork, as now revealed by the examinations of the Royal University, is even more decided in the undergraduate section of its students, than among the graduates. Indeed, but for the absolute impossibility of mistake in returns so carefully compiled, it would seem incredible that any collegiate institution of such extent, could have proved so barren of results. The official revelation of the fact that Galway, after receiving hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money, has been able to send up but *fifteen* students successful at this examination,<sup>1</sup> is far from unlikely

<sup>1</sup> On the total number of Arts students now attending the Cork and Galway Colleges, see Appendix, page 63.

to hasten the execution of the sentence pronounced against it by Mr. Gladstone nine years ago. What, then, is to be the fate of the Cork College, that has been able to send up but *ten*?

But the Honour List of this Second University Examination is the most instructive portion of the entire return.

In Latin, the first subject on the University List, the total number of students admitted to Honours was ten. Of these, seven were from Belfast, three from Galway, and *not even one* from Cork.

In Greek, the number of Honourmen was seven. Of these, four were from Belfast, two from Galway, and but *one* from Cork.

In English, *not even one* student from any of the three *Queen's Colleges* has succeeded in scoring 1st Honours! The number admitted to 2nd Honours is five. Of these, two are from Belfast, three from Galway, and consequently, as in the case of Latin, *not even one* from Cork.

In Logic the number admitted to Honours is nine. Here we find five from Belfast, two from Galway, and two from Cork.

In Mathematics there are four Honourmen. Of these, three are from Belfast, one from Galway, and again, as in Latin and English, *not even one* from Cork.

In Mathematical Physics, out of five Honourmen, Belfast sends three, Galway one, and Cork one.

In Experimental Physics, where there are but two Honourmen—neither admitted to the First Class—Belfast sends one, Galway one; Cork being once more, as in Latin, English, and Mathematics, *absolutely unrepresented*.

The University Exhibition List, necessarily following the general result of the scoring in each particular subject, is as follows:—The number of Exhibitions thus awarded is six, of which one is a First Class Exhibition of £40; the other five are Second Class Exhibitions of £20 each. The £40 Exhibition is won by Belfast, which also wins three of the other



five. The remaining two are won by Galway. *Cork is here once more an absolute and unqualified failure.*

The result, then, of the analysis of this list may be set forth as follows:—

SECOND UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION IN ARTS (HONOURS).

|                        |     | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|------------------------|-----|---------|------|--------|
| In Latin               | ... | 7       | —    | 3      |
| „ Greek                | ... | 4       | 1    | 2      |
| „ English              | ... | 2       | —    | 3      |
| „ Logic                | ... | 5       | 2    | 2      |
| „ Mathematics          | ... | 3       | —    | 1      |
| „ Mathematical Physics | ... | 3       | 1    | 1      |
| „ Experimental Physics | ... | 1       | —    | 1      |
| TOTAL                  | ... | 25      | 4    | 13     |

If we arrange the returns with reference to the distinction of First and Second Class Honours, and include the Exhibitions, similarly classified, we get the following result:—

|                         |     | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|------|--------|
| First Class Exhibitions | ... | 1       | —    | —      |
| Second do. do.          | ... | 3       | —    | 2      |
| First Honours           | ... | 14      | 1    | 3      |
| Second do.              | ... | 11      | 3    | 10     |
| TOTAL                   | ... | 29      | 4    | 15     |



## II.

THE "FIRST UNIVERSITY" EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY.<sup>1</sup>

In the first section of our Analysis we confined our attention to what may be termed the "close" examinations of the University, that is to say, the examinations at which, as yet, none but past or present students of the Queen's Colleges have been entitled to present themselves.

We have now to deal with the "open" examinations—that is to say, the examinations to which outsiders as well as Queen's College students were admissible.

For the present year, the "open" examinations are, as we have seen, but two—(1) the Matriculation, and (2) the "First University" Examination.

As to the "First University" Examination a point of the utmost importance is to be kept in view. Under the regulation of the Royal University the first step to a degree is the passing of this examination at least a year after Matriculation. Now by an act of liberality on the part of the Senate of the University, the privilege of exemption from this examination was granted, for the present year, *to the students of the three Queen's Colleges*. Not that the operation of the rule requiring the examination to be passed was postponed until next year for *all students* of the new University, but that, although the rule was in full force as regards the students who had entered the Royal University by the honest, *bona fide*, and searching Matriculation Examination held by its own examiners, a special privilege of exemption was conferred on those students who had entered by the merely nominal Matriculation Examination of one of the three Queen's Colleges! It is, no doubt, somewhat difficult to conceive any grounds on which an arrangement apparently so anomalous could be regarded as justified. Our present purpose, however, is not in any way to find fault with the arrangement, but merely to

<sup>1</sup> From the *Freeman's Journal* of Friday, November 3rd, 1882.

call attention to it. It is a matter absolutely necessary to be borne in mind in our analysis of this portion of the University list.

The result of it, of course, is, that we find but few Queen's College students in the list of the "First University" Examination. Those who did present themselves may fairly be regarded as having done so for the purpose of carrying off the prizes and honours of the Royal University. The result, then, is none the less instructive. It is the fashion at public meetings of Queen's College sympathisers to deplore the heavy loss that has been sustained by the students of the Queen's Colleges, who are now obliged to forego the high distinction of a Queen's University Degree, and to seek for their certificates of literary distinction in "an institution which has yet to make its reputation."<sup>1</sup> It cannot, then, but be interesting to examine how these chivalrous champions have fared, who, being perfectly free to stay at home, nevertheless came forward as volunteers, to carry off the honours of the new institution.

We have from the official lists no means of knowing how many students of the Queen's Colleges thus came forward at the "First University" Examination. We find the names of only *seven* recorded as having *passed*. And, from the nature of the case, it does not seem unreasonable to suppose that the number of those who passed is in fact the number of those who competed. At least we are willing to assume that it is so.

Again, we have no means of knowing, except in one case, the status, as regards Queen's College prizes and distinctions, of those who thus came forward. From the nature of the case, indeed, we are justified in assuming, in the absence

<sup>1</sup> This was, in fact, the expression used by the Chancellor of the late Queen's University in referring to the Royal University in his address at the closing meeting of the Senate.

The Senate, he said, felt it incumbent on them, where it could be done without detriment to the character of the Queen's University degrees, to confer the degree of M.A. on those who had taken the earlier degree of Bachelorship, and who would otherwise be unable to obtain the higher degree of the faculty, except from an "institution which had yet to make its reputation."

of evidence to the contrary, that they were students whose success in College competitions was such as to justify their thus coming forward in the new University. At all events, in one case, the more communicative system manfully adopted in his report by the President of one of the Colleges—that of Cork—enables us to adduce an official testimony on the point. And here we have distinct evidence to the effect that the student who came forward was one that might naturally be selected as a champion on whom his College could confidently rely to put an end at once and for ever to any hopes that the friends of the new “institution” might have entertained of seeing it make for itself a reputation at all to be compared with that enjoyed by its defunct predecessor. For, in the President’s report of the Queen’s College, Cork, for the Academic Session, 1881-82, we find the name of this student *at the head of the list* of College Scholarships in Literature. His name also *frequently* occurs in the College List of Prizemen. Among other distinctions in this College list we find him *absolutely first* in Greek.

Coming, then, to the Honour Lists of the Royal University in the “First University” Examination, we begin with Latin, which occupies the first place in the University lists. Here (omitting, as we shall omit throughout, all reference to girls, and to all students prepared by private study) we find that the number of students to whom Honours were awarded is 10, of whom 5 were awarded 1st Honours.

In the 1st Honour List, *one* Queen’s College representative finds, no doubt, a place; but it is *the last*! Of the remaining *four*, no fewer than *three*, including the 1st and 2nd, are won by students of Catholic Colleges. The remaining place was won by a student of the Methodist College, Belfast.

Again, in the 2nd Honour List, also comprising the names of five students, *one* Queen’s College representative appears. But it is in *the last place but one*! Here again, the 1st place is won by a Catholic College, as, in fact, are *three* out of the remaining *four* in this list, as in the first.

In Greek, five students were awarded Honours. Of these only two were awarded 1st Honours, and *both* of these—one of whom is first both on this list and on the 1st Honour list in Latin—are students of Catholic Colleges. The three Queen's Colleges are here *absolutely unrepresented!*

In the 2nd Honour List in Greek, the name of only *one* Queen's College representative appears. His place, however, is *the last of all*. It may be worth noting that *this is the student who won the first prize in this very subject in the Queen's College, Cork!* Here, however, in competition with outsiders, "in an institution which has its reputation yet to make," he comes *last* in the list of honormen, with a score of only 589, as against 789 and 765, scored by the 1st and 2nd students on the list, both of whom are from Catholic Colleges, one from Maynooth, the other from the French College, Blackrock.

In French, five students were awarded Honours. In this case, the Queen's College students *do not appear at all*; and *four* out of the *five* names on the list, again including the 1st and 2nd, are those of students of Catholic Colleges. The one solitary exception in this case is a highly distinguished student of Trinity College, Dublin, who has taken the 3rd place on this list.

In German, the only collegiate institution successful is a Catholic College—the French College, Blackrock, two students of which have won First Honours.

In Celtic, we regret to find, but one student has been awarded Honours. He, however, has been awarded 1st Honours. He is from the tutorial department of the Catholic University College, Dublin.

In English the number of Honourmen is *nine*; of these, no fewer than *eight*, including the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd on the list, are from Catholic Colleges. *No Queen's College representative appears on this list.* The solitary non-Catholic is the Trinity College student who occupied a somewhat similar position on the list of Honours in French. Here his place is 4th.



In Mathematics, the Queen's Colleges are again *absolutely unrepresented*. Here, out of *five* places, *two* are won by students of Catholic, and *three* by students of non-Catholic Colleges.

In Experimental Physics the Queen's Colleges are *again unrepresented*. Otherwise the state of the case is reversed. Out of *five* places, *three*, including the 1st and 2nd, are won by students of Catholic Colleges.

Thus we ascertain the extraordinary and all but incredible fact, that, while the Queen's College representatives have not succeeded in obtaining even one 1st place, and have in fact been mentioned but four times in the entire list, the following 1st places have been won by students of Catholic Colleges:—

|                        |     |  |
|------------------------|-----|--|
| 1st place in Latin     | ... | St. Brendan's College, Killarney,<br>and St. Patrick's College,<br>Maynooth. |
| „ Greek                | ... | Do. do.  |
| „ French               | ... | Messrs. Croly and M'Grath's<br>Classes, Catholic University.                 |
| „ German               | ..  | French College, Blackrock.   |
| „ Celtic               | ... | Messrs. Croly and M'Grath's<br>Classes, Catholic University.                 |
| „ English              | ..  | Do. do.  |
| „ Experimental Physics | Do. | do.  |

Moreover, we find that *in every one of those subjects* (except in Celtic, where only one student was awarded Honours), *the 2nd place as well as the 1st*, has been similarly won. Thus:—

|                        |     |  |
|------------------------|-----|--|
| 2nd place in Latin     | ... | Messrs. Croly and M'Grath's<br>Classes, Catholic University. |
| „ Greek                | ... | French College, Blackrock.                                   |
| „ French               | ... | Messrs. Croly and M'Grath's<br>Classes, Catholic University. |
| „ German               | ... | French College, Blackrock.                                   |
| „ English              | ... | Messrs. Croly and M'Grath's<br>Classes, Catholic University. |
| „ Experimental Physics | Do. | do.  |



It is not surprising, then, to find that of the eleven Exhibitions awarded on this examination, no fewer than *five out of the first six* have been carried off by the Catholic Colleges.<sup>1</sup> Two Queen's College students have here been successful, but only to the extent of winning, respectively, the 9th and 10th Exhibitions. Of these two, the former is from Belfast, the latter from Cork. It is his name that stands in last year's report of the learned President of that College, *at the head of the list of College Scholarships in Literature!*

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### III.

#### THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION OF THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY.<sup>2</sup>

The lists that we have so far analysed are those that have reference to University work, properly so-called, as distinct from the preparatory work of an Intermediate College or School. It remains now to examine the Matriculation lists of the year.

In this case, it is to be remembered, we have before us the names of the body of students now entering the University.

<sup>1</sup> Here it is right to explain that, this year, in compliance with the wishes of the Irish Bishops, the students of Maynooth College, so brilliantly successful at the Matriculation Examinations last year, did not present themselves for further examination in the University.

The only exception was in the case of the two Maynooth students who last year carried off the two Classical Scholarships of the University. (See Appendix, page 61). As a condition for holding the Scholarships, it was necessary for these students to pass the "First University" Examination this year. They consequently did so. In this examination, only one of the two competed for Honours. And his name, it is worth noting, stands *absolutely first*, in the 1st Honours lists both in Latin and in Greek.

<sup>2</sup> From the *Freeman's Journal* of Saturday, November 4th, 1882.

Last year, which was the first of the existence of the Royal University as a working institution, two modes of entering it were in existence—the searching Matriculation Examination conducted by the University itself, and the comparatively easy, and practically little more than nominal, Matriculation Examination of any one of the Queen's Colleges. For the first year, no doubt, this inequality was, to a certain extent unavoidable. But now that the special reasons for its existence have ceased, the inequality, as a matter of course, has been removed; and so, this year, the only means of obtaining admission to the new University has been through the Matriculation Examination of the University itself—the Examination, namely, of which the lists are now before us.

This, then, being absolutely the first examination held by the new University, which was fully open to free public competition, and at which all candidates, no matter where educated, came forward on terms of equality as regards the requirements of the examination, it may be taken as the fairest indication of the prospects of the future working of the University, and of its probable results.

The official lists inform us that the number of students who have this year matriculated is 487. For the purposes of our analysis, in which we are concerned chiefly with the results of the examination in their bearing on the more practical issues of the Irish University question, we may distribute the successful students into three classes, as follows:—

|   |     |     |     |     |           |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. Students of Catholic Schools and Colleges in Ireland   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 161       |
| 2. Students of Protestant Schools and Colleges in Ireland, and, generally, of all those Irish Schools and Colleges that cannot be classed as Catholic |     |     |     |     | 142       |
| 3. Girls, and all students prepared by private study, or at Schools and Colleges outside of Ireland   |     |     |     | ... | 184       |
|   |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 487 |

Omitting, then, in this case, as elsewhere throughout our analysis, the students of the various groups that go to make up this third class, we now proceed to analyse the lists of successful students in each subject.

The first subject in the official list is Latin.

Here, at the outset of our inquiry, we find the following results:—First Honours were awarded to nine students, of whom no fewer than six—including the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th on the list—are students of Catholic schools.

Second Honours have been awarded to ten students; of these, five are students of Catholic schools, and five of non-Catholic (a term which, for convenience, is used here and throughout to designate the schools of the second group specified above). Here, as in so many other instances, the representatives of Catholic education have won *both the 1st and the 2nd places*.

In Greek, First Honours are awarded to three students. *All three* are students of Catholic schools.

Second Honours are here awarded in four cases. The names of one Catholic and of two non-Catholic schools appear in the list. But the former has two representatives; and these, as usual, occupy *the 1st and the 2nd place*.

In French, the number of First Honourmen is four. Of these no fewer than three are students of Catholic schools. They hold, too, *the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places* on the list.

Second Honours are awarded in *seven* cases. Of these, no fewer than *five* are students of Catholic schools.

In German there are but two Honourmen of the classes coming within the terms of our analysis; one of these wins 1st Honours, the other 2nd Honours. Of these the former is a student of a Catholic school.

In Celtic but one Honourman appears on the list. 1st Honours have been awarded to him. In this case the credit of the success goes to an academy which, although we understand under Catholic management, is not, we believe, distinctively denominational.

In Spanish also, but one student has obtained honours. He, too, is a 1st Honourman. He is a student of a Catholic school.

In English, 1st Honours have been awarded to five students. Of these, four (including once more *the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd on the list*) are students of Catholic schools.

In this subject the number of 2nd Honourmen is twelve, of whom *seven* score to the credit of Catholic schools.

In Mathematics, at Matriculation as elsewhere throughout the University examinations, the preponderance of success lies with the non-Catholic schools. This is a matter for serious consideration. Surely it is not beyond the power of those responsible for the efficient working of Catholic educational establishments throughout Ireland, so brilliantly successful in every other branch of school and college work, to search out and to remove the source, whatever it may be, of the comparative failure of their students in this department—a failure which forms the solitary exception to an otherwise practically unbroken success. Here, in fact, out of twelve Honourmen, no fewer than ten are students of non-Catholic schools.

In Experimental Physics there is but one 1st Honourman—a student of a Catholic school. 2nd Honours have been awarded in seven cases. Of these, five are students of non-Catholic, and two of Catholic schools.

This detailed enumeration of the successes in the various subjects prepares us for the result of the award of Exhibitions, these being awarded on the general aggregate of successful answering.

The number of Exhibitions awarded to students coming within the terms of our analysis was nineteen. Of these, three were 1st Class Exhibitions of £24 each; sixteen were 2nd Class Exhibitions of £12 each. The result is as follows:—*All the Exhibitions of the 1st Class are won by students of Catholic schools; also nine out of the sixteen Exhibitions of the 2nd class!* It is also noteworthy that in the Exhibition



list *the five foremost places without exception* are held by students of Catholic schools, as follows:—

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1st place (1st Class Exhibition)... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg.     |
| 2nd „ do. do. ...                   | French College, Blackrock.             |
| 3rd „ do. do. ...                   | French College, Blackrock.             |
| 4th „ (2nd Class Exhibition)...     | Catholic University and Private Study. |
| 5th „ do. do. ...                   | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg.     |

It is by no means satisfactory to reflect that, notwithstanding this triumphant success of the students who are entering the University as representatives of the Catholic schools and Colleges of Ireland, the advantage, as regards State encouragement and support, is still on the side of their defeated rivals, who may now obtain<sup>1</sup> in the restricted competition of a domestic examination at one of the Queen's Colleges, prizes far more valuable than those for which they competed, but failed to win, at the open examination by which they have been admitted to the University.

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#### IV.

##### THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BELFAST.<sup>2</sup>

The publication of the award of the Queen's College Scholarships in Queen's College, Belfast, enables us to advance a step further in our analysis of the results of the recent examinations of the Royal University.

The completeness of the failure of the Colleges of Cork and Galway, disclosed, as we have shown, by the official lists

<sup>1</sup> When the Paper containing this paragraph was published, the awards of the "Consolation" Scholarships thus referred to had not yet been made.

The actual result of the award of those Scholarships is set forth in the following Papers.

<sup>2</sup> From the *Freeman's Journal* of Monday, November 27th, 1882.

of the University, renders it, we should hope, unnecessary to revert to that portion of the subject. But we wish here to direct attention to a new aspect of the case. Apart from the question of the withdrawal of the public grants from the three Colleges—a question which may possibly be settled by a compromise, in which the present status of the Belfast College may not be very materially altered—there is a further question, in which, as a matter of elementary justice, the Belfast College is no less involved than its sister institutions in the West and South. It is the question of the monopoly of Parliamentary patronage enjoyed to so large an extent by the three Queen's Colleges, in the matter of Prizes, Scholarships, and Exhibitions, maintained out of the public purse.

What are the facts of the case?

1. The number of Scholarships maintained by Parliament each year for the exclusive benefit of the Queen's College students is *a hundred and sixty two*, of which *thirty* are tenable for two years.

They are thus distributed:—

|       |                       |                       |          | Total Yearly. |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------|
| 90    | Junior Scholarships ; | yearly value £24 each | ...      | £2160         |
| 24    | „                     | „                     | 25 „ ..  | 600           |
| 24    | „                     | „                     | 20 „ ... | 480           |
| 24    | Senior Scholarship    | „                     | 40 „ ... | 960           |
| <hr/> |                       |                       |          |               |
| 162   |                       |                       |          | <hr/> £4,200  |

2. The Royal University, which has recently been established to take the place of the Queen's University, and which derives every penny of its income from a purely Irish fund—the surplus fund of the disestablished Protestant Church of Ireland<sup>1</sup>—is unable, from its stinted resources, to award more than £480, to be distributed in prizes to the successful students at its Matriculation Examination. And this, it is to

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, pages 3 and 4, *footnote*.

be remembered, is an examination at which *all* the students matriculating in the University, *including those about to enter the three Queen's Colleges*, are competitors. This maximum amount of £480 is distributed into two sums of £240 each. Of these two sums, one is available for awarding *ten* First Class Prizes of £24; the other for awarding *twenty* Second Class Prizes of £12.

3. As a measure probably of economy, the arrangement thus made is fenced round with a number of restrictions, a very practical illustration of the effect of which is afforded by the fact that, under the pressure of the rules thus imposed, the number of £24 prizes awarded this year by the University has been but *four*, instead of *ten*. Thus the total amount actually awarded at the recent Matriculation Examination in the Royal University was, not £480, but only £336.

4. On the other hand, the three Queen's Colleges, out of an income every penny of which is drawn from the public purse, are enabled each year to award *to their own students*, then entering the Colleges, no fewer than *forty-five* Scholarships, amounting in the aggregate to the yearly value of £1,050.

5. In other words, *each of the Colleges* is enabled each year to distribute among its own students, at entrance, Scholarships to the value of £350, an amount greater than that which the Royal University has been able this year to award at its Entrance Examination! And yet, it may be no harm to repeat, this Entrance Examination in the University is the open, public, examination at which *all* the students matriculating in the University—*including those about to enter the three Queen's Colleges*—are competitors.

The publication of the official award of the College Prizes in the Belfast College enables us, by comparison with the lists of the Royal University, to ascertain the actual results this year of a system so unpromising for the interests of education. The Belfast list is as follows. It omits one £20 Scholarship (in the Faculty of Law), which had not as yet been awarded when the list was published:—

## FIRST YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIPS (BELFAST).

## LITERARY DIVISION.

|                                     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| M'Neill, Robert (Faculty of Arts)   | ... | ... | £24 |
| Johnston, W. S. „ „                 | ... | ... | 24  |
| M'Mullen, William „ „               | ... | ... | 24  |
| Killen, S. M. C. „ „                | ... | ... | 24  |
| M'Mullen, T. W. „ „                 | ... | ... | 24  |
| Smiley, D. C. (Faculty of Medicine) | ... | ... | 25  |

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 £145

## SCIENCE DIVISION.

|                                       |     |     |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Orr, W. M.F. (Faculty of Arts)        | ... | ... | £24 |
| Cromie, E. S. „ „                     | ... | ... | 24  |
| Campbell, Albert „ „                  | ... | ..  | 24  |
| Priestly, James „ „                   | ... | ... | 24  |
| Heron, James (School of Engineering)  | ... | ... | 20  |
| Larmor, J. S. B. (Faculty of Arts)    | ... | ... | 24  |
| Woods, G. M. (Faculty of Medicine)    | ... | ... | 25  |
| Binden, A. M. (School of Engineering) | ... | ... | 20  |

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 Total in both Divisions ... £330

This list will well repay minute examination. Let us take the name that heads the list of Scholars in the Literary Division—Robert M'Neill. As might naturally be expected, the student who has obtained this place in Belfast is one who not only passed the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University, but passed it with Honours and obtained an Exhibition. His success, however, highly honourable to him as it undoubtedly was, only serves to give additional point to the instructive lesson taught by these official lists. On the University lists we find his name, no doubt, in the Honour lists of two out of the three "literary" subjects in which it was open to him to compete. But if we transcribe those lists so far as may be necessary to bring his name within the honourable roll, the result is one that is far from calculated to encourage Parliament to continue in its present course of educational endowments in Ireland. It will be seen that in the open



competition of the University, the Belfast 1st Literary Scholar has taken only the *eighth* place in Latin, and in Greek only the *seventh*. In English, although Honours are awarded to no fewer than thirty-four students, *his name does not appear at all!* The University lists are as follows:—

## LATIN.

|                    |     |                                    |
|--------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1. Nolan, Pierce   | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| 2. Griffin, Henry  | ... | French College, Blackrock.         |
| 3. Hogan, Edmund   | ... | Private Study.                     |
| 4. Dwyer, Michael  | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| 5. Conan, Arthur   | ... | French College, Blackrock.         |
| 6. Tunney, Joseph  | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| 7. Killen, S. M'C. | ... | Royal Acad. Inst. Belfast.         |
| 8. M'NEILL, ROBERT | ... | Belfast Academy.                   |

## GREEK.

|                      |     |                                    |
|----------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1. Griffin, Henry    | ... | French College, Blackrock.         |
| 2. Dwyer, Michael    | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| 3. Conan, Arthur     | ... | French College, Blackrock.         |
| 4. Hogan, Edmund     | ... | Private study,                     |
| 5. Nolan, Pierce     | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| 6. Riordan, Jeremiah | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| 7. M'NEILL, ROBERT   | ... | Belfast Academy.                   |

In English, as we have already observed, an essentially “literary” subject, the name of the Belfast 1st Literary Scholar does not appear at all! And it is surely not unworthy of notice, as an indication of the steady excellence of the work done in the Catholic schools of Ireland, that on this Honour list in English we find the names of *the same four* students—Nolan, Griffin, Dwyer, and Conan, students of the Jesuit College, Tullabeg, and of the French College, Blackrock—who, as we have seen, also achieved the significant success of placing their names in the foremost places on the Honour lists both in Latin and Greek.

It would manifestly be superfluous, after this examination of the “test case” of the first scholar, to proceed further with a minute analysis of the list. But it is worthy of at least brief mention that of all the fourteen students so substantially

rewarded in Belfast, the names of *only ten* appear in this year's matriculation lists of the Royal University, and that of these ten, *only five* have succeeded in obtaining even second-class Prizes in the open competition of the University. *Not even one of the five has obtained a first-class Prize!* The highest place is that taken by Robert McNeill, the student whose name heads the College list of Scholarships; but in the University prize-list he takes only the *eighth* place; and here once more, we find before him, in the first places of honour, the names of

|                 |     |                                    |
|-----------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Dwyer, Michael  | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| Griffin, Henry. | ... | French College, Blackrock.         |
| Conan, Arthur   | ... | French College, Blackrock, and     |
| Nolan, Pierce   | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |

As to the four other Belfast Queen's College Scholars who, like their leader, have succeeded in obtaining second-class prizes in the Royal University, their places in the order of merit as there recorded in the official lists, are, respectively—19th, 21st, 24th, and 30th.

So much, then, for the Entrance Scholarships of the Queen's College, Belfast. It can hardly, we think, be deemed necessary after this to make a similar analysis of the Scholarship lists of Galway and Cork. Yet it may be useful to do so.

## V.

### THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES OF CORK AND GALWAY.<sup>1</sup>

The official Report for the Session 1881-82, presented to the Queen by the learned and distinguished President of Her Majesty's College in Cork, contains a sentence that cannot fail to furnish matter for serious reflection to those responsible for the maintenance of the existing system of endowments for the purposes of University education in Ireland. Speaking of the dissolution of the Queen's University, and of the founding of the Royal University as its substitute, Dr. Sullivan reports

<sup>1</sup> From the *Freeman's Journal* of Saturday, December 2nd, 1882.

to Her Majesty that "the effect of this change on the College' over which he presides "cannot as yet be predicted; but," he adds, "on higher education I have no doubt it will be injurious."

This is surely a bold statement from the President of a Queen's College, in an official report to the Queen herself, in reference to the foundation of a University chartered under her sign-manual in constitutional compliance with the advice of her responsible advisers, and in pursuance of an enactment of her Parliament. "Its effect on higher education," Dr. Sullivan assures Her Majesty, he has "no doubt," "will be injurious." In one important respect we are inclined to dissent from this emphatic judgment of the President. We should be inclined rather to invert the clauses of the sentence in which he has so confidently pronounced this judgment adverse to the University in the government of which he exercises so important an influence. For our part, we believe that it is as yet too soon to form a definitive judgment as to the ultimate influence of the Royal University on higher education in Ireland. But that its effect on the maintenance of the Queen's College, Cork, as at present constituted, will prove decidedly "injurious," we can have no doubt whatever.

In concluding our analysis of the Scholarship lists of the three Queen's Colleges for the present year, as compared with the Honours and Exhibition lists of the Royal University, we think it not superfluous, even though it be a repetition, to set forth a brief statement of some important facts necessary to be borne in mind if we would fully appreciate the extent of the educational scandal revealed by the analysis. These, then, are the following:—

1. The Royal University is henceforth to stand in the same relation to all the University students of Ireland (except, for the present at least,<sup>1</sup> those of Trinity College, Dublin) in

<sup>1</sup> "In a country where different religions are professed, and where the majority of the people have grievously suffered from the religious and political domination of a minority, it seems to me to be *necessary*, in order to ultimately secure *religious and political equality*, as well as in *the interest of*

which the Queen's University formerly stood in relation exclusively to the students of the three Queen's Colleges. The passing of the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University is the only course by which any such student can become a student of an Irish University. The passing of its preliminary Examinations is the only course by which he can qualify for a degree. And the passing of its Degree Examinations is the only course by which he can obtain one. Henceforth the three Queen's Colleges, although, as yet, undisturbed in the possession of their endowments, are to be mere Colleges, and nothing more. They have ceased to be University Colleges. In relation to the Royal University they stand on precisely the same footing as the Catholic University College in Stephen's-green, Dublin; the Jesuit Colleges in Dublin or Tullabeg; the French College, Blackrock; St. Malachy's College, Belfast; Magee College, Derry; or any other College, Catholic, or non-Catholic, in Ireland.

2. The Queen's Colleges, however, still retain all their endowments. Year after year, with a steady liberality that tends rather to increase than to diminish, Parliament has voted, and still continues to vote, for their maintenance, a sum considerably in excess of £25,000 a year.

3. While every penny of this large endowment is thus freely paid by Parliament out of the public purse, all assistance from the same source is persistently withheld from the unendowed Catholic and non-Catholic colleges that we have already named. Even the grant for the maintenance of the Royal University, miserably inadequate as it is in view of the vast work thrown upon it, is paid, not out of the public Treasury, but out of a purely Irish fund—the surplus fund of the disestablished Protestant Church of Ireland.<sup>1</sup>

4. In the official reports of the Presidents of the three Queen's Colleges for the Session 1881-2, we find the following

*true learning, that there should be but one standard by which the proficiency in knowledge of academical students should be tested.*—*University Education in all Ireland*, by W. K. Sullivan, Ph. D., (now President, Queen's College, Cork), Dublin, 1866.

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, pages 3 and 4, *footnote*.



statement of the grants made by Parliament—that is to say, practically, by the House of Commons—in the year ended 31st March, 1882:—

Grant for the year, charged on Consolidated fund (net):—

|         |     |     |     |         |    |   |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|---------|----|---|
| Belfast | ... | ... | ... | £6,891  | 3  | 4 |
| Cork    | ... | ... | ... | 6,890   | 14 | 3 |
| Galway  | ... | ... | ... | 6,892   | 6  | 2 |
| Total   |     |     |     | £20,674 | 3  | 9 |

Grant for the year “in aid of expenses of maintenance”:—

|         |     |     |     |        |   |   |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---|---|
| Belfast | ... | ... | ... | £1,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Cork    | ... | ... | ... | 1,600  | 0 | 0 |
| Galway  | ... | ... | ... | 1,600  | 0 | 0 |
| Total   |     |     |     | £4,800 | 0 | 0 |

Grant for the year “in augmentation of Professors’ salaries”:—

|         |     |     |     |      |    |    |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|----|----|
| Belfast | ... | ... | ... | £146 | 12 | 10 |
| Cork    | ... | ... | ... | 76   | 8  | 0  |
| Galway  | ... | ... | ... | 273  | 15 | 0  |
| Total   |     |     |     | £496 | 15 | 10 |

Thus, then, we arrive at the following statement of the total amount of the grant for last year:—

|   |        |         |   |   |
|---|--------|---------|---|---|
| Grant from Consolidated Fund                | ...    | £20,674 | 0 | 0 |
| „ “in aid of expenses of maintenance”       |        | 4,800   | 0 | 0 |
| „ “in augmentation of Professors’ salaries” | ... .. | 516     | 0 | 0 |
| Total                                       |        | £25,990 | 0 | 0 |

We omit any detailed statement of the sum granted each year for the endowment of the Queen’s University. Its average amount seems to have been about £4,400. But we would suggest as a very proper subject of inquiry why the establishment of the Royal University and the allotment to it of an insufficient endowment from the Irish Church Fund, should

have had the effect of relieving the Imperial Treasury of this annual charge.<sup>1</sup>

5. Some months ago there were published in the *Free-man's Journal*, at the request of the writer of the present Paper, a number of extracts from the speeches made by prominent Members of Parliament at both sides of the House on the occasion of the passing of the Royal University Bill in 1879. On all hands it was then agreed that the measure then introduced was, in a certain sense, a temporary provision; temporary, at least, in the matter of endowments. Mr. Gladstone, who was then in Opposition, did not speak on that occasion. But more than one of his present colleagues took an active part in the debate. We trust that they have not forgotten their utterances. "I would willingly," said Dr. Lyon Playfair, "support a scheme which would give the Roman Catholics well organised colleges of secular education, comparable in efficiency to Trinity College and the Queen's Colleges. *Without that there will be no equality.*" "You cannot," said Mr. Courtney, "maintain the endowments to the Queen's Colleges, where students are in training for the University, and keep other students deprived of them." "I am perfectly persuaded," he added, "that the Bill now on the table will have to be completed, sooner or later, by *the disendowment<sup>2</sup> of the Queen's Colleges.*" And on the same occasion the significant declaration was made by Mr. Parnell, that this Bill would render "a wrangle and a struggle upon this question next session *a matter of inevitable necessity*; because if the

<sup>1</sup> It can hardly be accepted as a satisfactory answer to this question, that a similar financial operation was performed at the expense of the same Irish fund in 1869, when provision was made for the discontinuance of grants for Irish purposes to the amount of about £70,000 a year.

<sup>2</sup> It will be observed that the proposal advocated in these Papers is a much more modest one than that thus foretold by Mr. Courtney as a legislative proposal of the future. The maintenance of the three Colleges at the public expense may or may not be in conformity with sound political principles. The settlement of this question may safely be left to the future. The question at present is, Why should Parliament maintain a vast system of College prizes to be distributed, from year to year, among those Students of the Queen's Colleges who fail to achieve distinction in the open competition of the University?

Queen's Colleges were maintained without some counterbalancing advantages to the Catholic Colleges also, there would be a gross and clear inequality." (See page 66.)

It is, we trust, of some importance now to call attention to these weighty declarations. They surely acquire a new significance in the light now thrown upon them by the official lists of the Honors and Prizes awarded by the new University.

In the preceding section of our Analysis we called attention to the significance of the inferences to be drawn from this year's official award of the Entrance Scholarships in the Queen's College, Belfast. We have now before us the corresponding list of the Queen's College Scholarships awarded this year in Cork and Galway. Although it seems in great measure superfluous, we may, for the sake of completing our analysis, set forth the following statement of the result. It is, indeed, a result such as all who are familiar with the actual condition of affairs in the Cork and Galway Colleges might readily infer, at least in substance, from the disclosures already made in reference to Belfast. But, from the toleration so long accorded to the Southern and Western Colleges, we must assume that their real position in the world of university education is far from being as widely known as, in the interests of university education, it ought to be. It may be useful, then to set forth the state of facts disclosed by a comparison of two unimpeachable records—the official award of the Queen's College Scholarships, as published by the College authorities themselves, and the official lists, published by the Royal University, of the Honours and Entrance Prizes awarded at the Matriculation Examinations for the present year.

Following the alphabetical order, we begin with Cork. Here we are at once confronted by the startling fact that of the *five* College Scholarships in Literature, of the value of £24 each, publicly advertised for competition in the faculty of Arts, only *two* have been awarded! We have been informed that there were in fact *only two competitors*. For this we cannot vouch. But the official list vouches for us, at all events,

that only two students succeeded in reaching the minimum standard of answering on which the College authorities could venture to award those valuable prizes maintained for them at the public expense. How low this minimum must be is made sufficiently plain by the no less startling fact that although both these students (we forbear from publishing their names) succeeded in passing the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University, they not only failed in obtaining an Entrance Prize, even of the 2nd Class, but *they did not succeed in obtaining even 2nd Class Honours*, or, in other words, *any place, however low, on the Honour list of the University, in any one of the five subjects of examination!* In the University they are mere Pass men. In the Cork College they obtain each a Scholarship of £24, exactly equal in amount to the *highest prize*<sup>1</sup> that the Royal University out of its scanty resources is able to award even to its most distinguished student at Matriculation! The Royal University has only *four* such prizes for the successful students from all Ireland; but *each* of the three Queen's Colleges has, *for its own students*, no less than *fifteen*, making in all *forty-five* such Prizes, each practically of the same amount!

But to resume. Of the five "science" Scholars in the Cork "Faculty," the names of *only two* appear at all in the University Matriculation List—three, indeed, if we regard a "John Smyth" of the University Pass List, as identical with a "John B. Smith," of the College.

But whether the number be two or three is of no consequence. Not one of them has obtained at the University even a 2nd Class Entrance Prize! Nay, more, not one of them has obtained *a place of any kind* on the University lists of Honours in any literary subject; and, as regards scientific subjects, Mathematics, and Experimental Physics, while one has obtained merely the 9th place on the list, among the 2nd Honourmen, in Mathematics, *both the others have failed to obtain any place at all on the Mathematical list*, and *not one of the three has obtained any place whatever on the Honour list of the other scientific subject, Experimental Physics!*

<sup>1</sup> See page 26.



But our readers are probably of opinion that we have had enough on this branch of our subject. Let us turn to Galway. It would be hard to say that the result here is much less miserable. We may dispose of it briefly.

In Galway, then, 14 scholarships were awarded. Of the 14 students thus successful in the College competition, the names of only 7 appear in the University lists. And here, again, as in the case of the Cork Scholars, *not even one has succeeded in obtaining at the University even a 2nd class Entrance Prize!*

As in Cork, so also in Galway, not one of those Scholars, whether "literary" or "scientific," has succeeded at the University in obtaining any place, however low, on the Honour lists in Greek, in French, or in Experimental Physics!

The Galway 1st "literary" Scholar has not obtained Honours, either in Greek, in English, or in any modern language! His name indeed appears in the Honour list of one literary subject, Latin. But his place there is in order of merit only *seventeenth!*

Of all the "science" Scholars, not one has obtained *any place*, high or low, on the Honour list in *Experimental Physics*. One of them, indeed—the first of the five—has been successful to the extent that his name has found at least some place on the Honour list in Mathematics. His place, however, in the order of merit, is not distinguished. Of the 16 students to whom Honours were awarded in this subject in the University Examination, he is *absolutely the last!*

To bring our tedious task to a close, we may now set forth in tabular form a comparative statement of the numbers of students to whom Honours and Prizes were awarded at the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University, considering only, on the one hand, the students among whom the "literary" and "scientific" Entrance Scholarships of the three Queen's Colleges have since been distributed; and, on the other hand, the students of the unendowed Catholic Colleges of Ireland. The result is as follows:—

ROYAL UNIVERSITY HONOURS AND EXHIBITIONS.  
(MATRICULATION EXAMINATION, 1882.)

| Awarded to   | Latin | Greek | French, &c. | English | Mathematics | Physics | First Class Exhibitions | Second Class Exhibitions |
|--|-------|-------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Belfast College Scholars ...                                 | 2     | 2     | 1           | 4       | 3           | 2       | —                       | 5                        |
| Cork „ ...   | —     | —     | —           | 1       | 1           | —       | —                       | —                        |
| Galway „ ...   | 1     | —     | —           | —       | 1           | —       | —                       | —                        |
| Total awarded to Queen's }<br>College Scholars               | 3     | 2     | 1           | 5       | 5           | 2       | —                       | 5                        |
| Awarded to Students of }<br>unendowed Catholic }<br>Colleges | 11    | 5     | 11          | 12      | 2           | 3       | 3                       | 9                        |
| Total ...  | 14    | 7     | 12          | 17      | 7           | 5       |                         | 14                       |

We submit that if this list be examined by any unprejudiced reader, he cannot for a moment hesitate to endorse the statements of Mr. Courtney, of Dr. Lyon Playfair, and of Mr. Parnell, quoted in one of the preceding pages.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See page 33.



# APPENDICES.

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## APPENDIX A.

REPLY OF DR. PORTER, PRESIDENT OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE,  
BELFAST.

In reference to the preceding Papers, the following letter from Dr. Porter, the learned and respected President of Queen's College, Belfast, was published in the *Freeman's Journal* of Monday, December 11th, 1882 :—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREEMAN.

Queen's College, Belfast, December 8th.

SIR,—My attention has just been directed to articles in your paper upon Queen's College, Belfast—articles which, in my opinion, and in the opinion of all who know the state of this college, are unfair and misleading. I presume that, as a public journalist, you desire to speak the truth, and the whole truth, on those educational questions which you discuss, and that whatever may be your views upon the educational policy and requirements of this country, you would not wilfully misrepresent any institution. I therefore, very respectfully, claim the right of a reply to your severe criticisms. I do not propose, however, to follow you through your long details. It is unnecessary to do so, as most of them are irrelevant to the main questions at issue with regard to this college. A simple statement of facts will, I venture to think, be sufficient to show to every thoughtful and impartial reader the fallacy of your arguments, and the unfairness of your conclusions.

I think it right to state at the outset that Queen's College neither fears nor deprecates publicity and honest criticism. On the contrary, it courts them. No college or university in the Empire gives a fuller account of its acts, state, and progress, year after year. It might be well, perhaps, if some other colleges in Ireland were equally free and unreserved in imparting information which the public might desire to possess. I feel proud of the position to which Queen's College has attained, and of the distinguished honours gained by its alumni.

Queen's College does not prepare candidates for matriculation in the Royal or any other University, as would seem to be indicated in your articles.<sup>1</sup> It is not a school for elementary training, and cannot

<sup>1</sup> Nothing of the kind was in any way indicated in any of those articles, as may be seen by a careful perusal of them as printed in the preceding pages.



therefore be compared or contrasted with the French College, Blackrock, or St. Stanislaus' College, or other institutions of a similar kind which you mention. It is simply misleading to speak as you do of honours and exhibitions awarded to Queen's College students at the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University. Before entering Queen's College, students are required to have passed a Matriculation Examination. The college has had nothing to do with their previous education.<sup>1</sup> That education is received at institutions with which the college has no connection, and over which it has no control. Consequently the Queen's College is in no way responsible for the proficiency or failure of any candidate for matriculation in the Royal University. The object of the matriculation is to ascertain whether the candidates are sufficiently advanced in general knowledge to enable them to pursue with advantage the prescribed courses of study.

Now, as to our scholarships, candidates for first year scholarships must have passed the matriculation either in the College or in the Royal University, and no person can be admitted as a candidate who has attended as a matriculated student any class in this College or in any of the Queen's Colleges. Consequently the previous education of candidates must have been received elsewhere. Competition is open to all except Queen's College students. There are no tests and no restrictions of any kind. The door is as open as that of the Royal University. We are ready to welcome candidates from any school or college or family in the empire. Our statutes guarantee them absolute freedom of conscience, and freedom from all interference with their religious convictions, and the subjects we teach, and on which we examine, are exactly the same as those laid down in the courses of the Royal University, and approved of by the Senate. It is misleading, therefore, to assert or insinuate that our scholarships are restricted to any class, or school, or denomination. They are open on equal terms to all who choose to compete for them—as open as those of the Royal University itself.<sup>2</sup>

The examination for scholarships is entirely distinct from that for matriculation. The subjects of examination for literary scholarships are Latin, Greek, and English; the subjects of examination for science scholarships are geometry, arithmetic, algebra, and trigonometry. Proficiency in classical learning and English is the chief requisite in competing for a literary scholarships. Proficiency in

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Porter seems to have altogether missed the point of the contrast referred to. See page 24. The question is not as to responsibility for the previous education of the unsuccessful candidates. Wherever the responsibility for this may lie, the fact is undeniable that the students who enter the Queen's Collèges, and there receive the College Scholarships, are not students who are successful in the open competition of the Royal University. See the extract on the title page of this pamphlet.

<sup>2</sup> See, however, Introduction, page 4.

mathematics is essential to successful competition for a science scholarship.

It will thus be seen that scholarships in Queen's College are awarded upon an entirely different principle from that upon which exhibitions are awarded in the Royal University. The latter are given for the highest aggregate of marks in five subjects—Latin, Greek, or some modern language, Mathematics, English, and Experimental Physics. An average general score secures an exhibition, but a specialist, however distinguished, whether in classics or mathematics, has little chance of success. This is proved by the result of the recent examinations, as I shall show presently. It is consequently<sup>1</sup> misleading to institute a comparison between the scholars of Queen's College and the exhibitioners of the Royal University.

Another point it is necessary to mention. The subjects of examination for Queen's College scholarships are published long before the time of examination, and it has for many years been the custom in some of the leading schools in the north of Ireland to prepare pupils specially in those subjects; hence the success which attends their candidature here. A great stimulus has been given by our annual scholarship competition to both classical and mathematical study throughout Ulster, and the brilliant career of many of our scholars in Oxford, Cambridge, and elsewhere, shows how thoroughly both schools and colleges have done their work.

The foregoing statement of facts, prepares the way for forming a just estimate of the position which those scholars of this College, who previously matriculated in the Royal University, gained at the matriculation examination.

Six literary scholarships have been awarded, including one restricted to medical students. The first scholar took first class honours in Latin, second class in Greek, and also first class in Mathematics, in the Royal University; the second and third upon our list did not enter the Royal University; the fourth took first class honours in Latin and second class in English; the fifth took second class honours in English; the sixth took second class honours in Greek and first class in English.<sup>2</sup>

In the science division eight scholarships were awarded, two of them being restricted to engineering, and one to medical students. The first scholar is W. M'F. Orr, whose brilliant answering in mathematics placed him far above all his competitors in the Royal University, and yet he is last in the list of exhibitioners! The second

<sup>1</sup>The inference thus drawn seems to imply that the failure of the Queen's College students in general scoring was made up for by special excellence in the special subjects enumerated. See, however, page 28.

<sup>2</sup>In all this, and also in the next paragraph, Dr. Porter omits to mention the numerical order of merit on the University list. See pages 28, 29.

scholar obtained second class honours in experimental physics, and also second class in French. The third and fifth on our list did not enter the Royal University at the recent examination. The fourth on our list obtained first class honours in mathematics; the seventh obtained second class honours in mathematics; and the eighth second class in experimental physics.

We have no reason to feel ashamed of the foregoing list, and I am glad to find that, in addition to those on the list, some sixty-six others, who matriculated in the Royal University, ten of them with honours, have since entered this College in the Faculty of Arts.

But, after all, the real test of efficiency in a College is to be sought, not in the educational status of those who enter it, but in the progress and high attainments of those who have been trained in it. It is our object to give the best possible education to all who enter. Our scholarships were never intended to be mere rewards for work done at school, without any guarantee of subsequent work. They were founded for the purpose of stimulating and aiding promising young men to pursue a course of systematic study under efficient professors, which they must do or else they forfeit their scholarships. On the great advantages of this requirement, I would refer to the emphatic testimony of Dr. Lyon Playfair, to whom you have appealed as an authority. A combined (teaching and examining) university, he says, "aims and succeeds at producing an educated man; an examining board can only be assured that it has produced a crammed man. It is the curriculum of the university, not the examination, which educates the man." We believe this, and we act upon it in Belfast.<sup>1</sup> Some of our best men, after their training here, go to Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity College. This will continue to be the case, because high rewards are open to them, and they know besides the superlative advantages of residence and systematic work in a university. I am willing, however, passing by those men for the moment, to test the efficiency and general success of the training given in Queen's College by the published results of the recent examinations in the Royal University. They are as follows<sup>2</sup> :—

Faculty of Law<sup>3</sup>—First class honourmen, with the degree of LL.B., to two men from this college, and second class honours to two.

<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to see in what way this portion of Dr. Porter's letter can be regarded as a reply to the Papers published in the preceding pages.

<sup>2</sup> In reference to what follows it may perhaps be necessary to call attention to the distinction already pointed out (see page 9) between the "close" and the "open" examinations of the Royal University. It is not in any way implied in any of the Papers to which Dr. Porter undertook to reply, that *in competition with the Queen's Colleges of Cork and Galway*, Queen's College, Belfast, was not successful. Indeed the fact that it was thus successful was more than once brought out most distinctly in those Papers.

<sup>3</sup> Examination not open to outsiders.



Medicine<sup>1</sup>—Second class honours were given with the degree of M.D. to one from this college. At the second examination in medicine first class honours were given to one from this college, and second class to three. At the first examination in medicine first class honours were awarded to two from this college, and second class to one.

Arts<sup>2</sup>—First class honours were awarded with the degree of B.A. to four candidates from this college, and second class to four. At the second University examination first class honours in Latin were awarded to four candidates from this college, and second class to three. In Greek first class honours were awarded to two from this college, and second class to two. In Logic, Belfast students gained three first class honours and two second class. In Mathematics our students gained three first class honours; and in Mathematical Physics two first class. One of our students also gained second class honours in Mathematical Physics and second class in Experimental Physics.

Engineering<sup>3</sup>—At the second professional examination first class honours were awarded to two students from this college.

All those examinations, be it observed, were conducted by the Fellows and Examiners of the Royal University, and they prove that in their judgment<sup>4</sup> our training in this college is sound and thorough.

But Dr. Lyon Playfair has rightly said—"The object of a University is not merely to have an honour list, but also to promote efficient study among many, as proved by their attaining degrees on fair and reasonable, though adequate conditions." Judged by this standard Queen's College has been singularly successful. The Royal University has only held one general degree examination; yet, the numbers of Belfast students upon whom it has conferred degrees are as follows:—LL.D., 2; LL.B., with honours, 4; pass, 2; M.D., with honours, 1; upper pass, 7; pass, 17; M.Ch., 18; M.A., 2; B.A., with honours, 8; pass, 15—total, 76.

The degrees conferred upon Belfast students by the Queen's University in 1881, the year before its dissolution, were as follows:—M.A., with honours, 7; pass, 3; B.A., with honours, 15; pass, 18; LL.D., 1; LL.B., 2; M.D., with honours, 4; upper pass, 7; pass, 27; B.E., with honours, 1; pass, 4—total, 89.

I have only further to add, as proof, that Queen's College is doing a great educational work in Ireland, the fact that during last session 575 students were in attendance in the several faculties.

J. LESLIE PORTER.

<sup>1</sup> Neither Examination open to outsiders.

<sup>2</sup> None of these Examinations was open to outsiders.

<sup>3</sup> Examination not open to outsiders.

<sup>4</sup> It is well to observe that a majority of the Fellows, and a large number, if not a majority, of the other Examiners, thus referred to, are Queen's College Professors.



## APPENDIX B.

## THE REJOINDER.

## I.

In reply to the above letter, the following article appeared next day in the *Freeman's Journal*:—

We published yesterday a letter from Dr. Porter, the learned President of the Queen's College, Belfast, in reply to the series of Papers on the Queen's Colleges and the Royal University, published in these columns a few weeks ago. That series of Papers Dr. Porter candidly describes as a "severe" criticism. We cannot but regard this admission as satisfactory. It leaves, indeed, no room for doubt that the blow dealt by our analysis of the Royal University lists at the system of monopoly still upheld by Parliament in favour of the Queen's Colleges was really a "severe" one, and that it has been felt as such, not merely in the comparatively defenceless outworks of the system in Cork and Galway, but even in the central stronghold at Belfast.

In another respect also Dr. Porter's reply is satisfactory to us. Our "criticism," as he describes it, was, as our readers may remember, a series of Papers closely analysing the official lists of the recent examinations of the Royal University. It consisted for the most part not of statements of opinion, nor of logical inferences, but of statements of facts. As published, from day to day, it extended over many columns of this journal. The statements, whether substantial or incidental, thus made, amounted to many hundreds. Yet to not one of these does Dr. Porter venture to take exception. He feels embarrassed—and no wonder—at the "arguments" which they suggest, and at the "conclusions" to which they so plainly point. But of "arguments" and "conclusions" in this matter Dr. Porter cannot expect to be accepted as a specially qualified judge. The facts, as we have stated them, are before the public. Dr. Porter has had the most unlimited facilities for questioning or disproving them. His letter, from first to last, is a tacit confession that they are indisputable.

Accepting our facts, then, as unassailable, Dr. Porter writes in the vain hope of showing that our "arguments" are "fallacious," and our "conclusions" "unfair." With the skill, however, of an ingenious advocate, he omits to state what "arguments" or "conclusions" he refers to. He speaks of "the main question at issue" as regard his College. But here, again, he omits to inform us

what "question" it is that he has in view. Nor is it easy to infer it from his letter. For our part, we candidly confess our inability to discover it. Unless, however, we are to regard his letter as altogether irrelevant to the issue he may have intended to discuss, it is plain that his idea of "the main question at issue" here is very different from that entertained by us, and by the Irish public at large.

The "main question," and practically, so far as we can see, the only question, at issue is this—Do the results of the recent examinations of the Royal University go to show that the present system of Parliamentary endowments for the purposes of University education in Ireland is a system that should be maintained even for another year? Do they confirm or disprove the emphatic statement of Dr. Lyon Playfair, that in the present state of affairs there is "no equality?" Do they tend to verify or to falsify the noteworthy prediction of Mr. Leonard Courtney, that Parliament "cannot maintain the endowments to the Queen's Colleges where students are in training for the University, and keep other students deprived of them?" Do they tend to increase or to allay the apprehensions of all interested in the maintenance of "order" in the House of Commons, in view of Mr. Parnell's significant intimation that the present University arrangements must render "a wrangle and struggle upon this question next session a matter of inevitable necessity, because if the Queen's Colleges are maintained without some counterbalancing advantages to the Catholic Colleges also there will be a gross and clear inequality?" This is the issue raised by us, and it is not to be evaded by Dr. Porter's pardonably ingenious attempt to draw us into a discussion upon any other questions, however interesting.

But Dr. Porter is not to suppose that we intend to decline a discussion on the lines laid down in his letter of yesterday. We have only to request that he will not think us wanting in courtesy to him if we suggest a postponement of this matter for a week or two. He has taken several weeks to reply to us. His letter, indeed, is not one that need require a delay of as many hours. Taking it paragraph by paragraph, we should have much satisfaction to-day in pointing out to him how very fallacious it is. But if we have even now succeeded in bringing before him an idea of the question really at issue in this matter, he will see that it is a question which, while no doubt it affects his College of Belfast, affects also, and to a much larger degree, the sister institutions of Cork and Galway. It is not satisfactory to have to deal piecemeal with a question such as this.

Let us first, then, hear what the Presidents of Cork and Galway have to say for their Colleges, and for their entrance Scholarships and Scholars, whether "literary" or "scientific."

Dr. Porter's letter is, in fact, an open challenge to his brother Presidents. We trust that they will have the courage to accept it. They cannot at all events plead that our "criticism" is unworthy of their notice. The verdict of Belfast is, on this point, decisive. Let them not leave it open to hostile critics to say that Dr. Porter's unfriendly comment upon the management of certain other colleges can have any reference to Galway or to Cork. Speaking of his own Queen's College, Dr. Porter proclaims that it "neither fears nor deprecates publicity and honest criticism. On the contrary, it courts them." We feel assured that in the contrast which, by an awkward collocation of sentences, is almost immediately afterwards drawn by Dr. Porter between the Belfast College and certain other colleges in Ireland, nothing could have been further from his intention than to suggest any shortcomings in this respect on the part of the two sister institutions that at present draw an equal share with Belfast from the lavish endowments voted year after year in Parliament for Queen's College purposes. But Dr. Porter's intentions cannot control the significance of his words. We thank him, then, for the suggestion that he has, no doubt unwittingly, given us. We shall await, for a while at least, the "replies" of Cork and Galway. In the meantime it may be well to set forth once more in tabular form the summaries already published by us, embodying the main results of what Dr. Porter describes as our severe criticism :—

#### I.—THE B.A. EXAMINATIONS.

|  | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|--|---------|------|--------|
| Total number of Students from the three Queen's Colleges this year admitted to B.A. ... .. | 23      | 13   | 9      |

#### II.—SECOND UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION.

|   | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|---|---------|------|--------|
| Total number who passed this year from the three Queen's Colleges | 31      | 10   | 15     |

## III.—SECOND UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS. (HONORS).

|                             | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|--------|
| In Latin ... ..             | 7       | —    | 3      |
| Greek ... ..                | 4       | 1    | 2      |
| English ... ..              | 2       | —    | 3      |
| Logic ... ..                | 5       | 2    | 2      |
| Mathematics ... ..          | 3       | —    | 1      |
| Mathematical Physics ... .. | 3       | 1    | 1      |
| Experimental Physics ... .. | 1       | —    | 1      |
| Total ... ..                | 25      | 4    | 13     |

## IV.—SAME EXAMINATION (HONOURS AND EXHIBITIONS) CLASSIFIED.

|                               | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|-------------------------------|---------|------|--------|
| First-class Exhibitions... .. | 1       | —    | —      |
| Second-class do. ... ..       | 3       | —    | 2      |
| First-class Honors ... ..     | 14      | 1    | 3      |
| Second-class do. ... ..       | 11      | 3    | 10     |
| Total ... ..                  | 29      | 4    | 15     |

V. MATRICULATION EXAMINATION,  
ROYAL UNIVERSITY HONOURS AND EXHIBITIONS.

| Awarded to   | Honors |       |             |         |             |         | Exhibitions           |                       |
|--|--------|-------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Latin  | Greek | French, &c. | English | Mathematics | Physics | 1st Class Exhibitions | 2nd Class Exhibitions |
| Belfast Scholars ... ..                                | 2      | 2     | 1           | 4       | 3           | 2       | —                     | 5                     |
| Cork „ ... ..  | —      | —     | —           | 1       | 1           | —       | —                     | —                     |
| Galway „ ... ..  | 1      | —     | —           | —       | 1           | —       | —                     | —                     |
| Total awarded to Queen's College Scholars ... ..       | 3      | 2     | 1           | 5       | 5           | 2       | —                     | 5                     |
| Awarded to Students of Unendowed Catholic Colleges ... | 11     | 5     | 11          | 12      | 2           | 3       | 3                     | 9                     |
| Total ... ..   | 14     | 7     | 12          | 17      | 7           | 5       | 3                     | 14                    |



## II.

Partly in further reference to Dr. Porter's letter, the following article subsequently appeared in the *Freeman's Journal* :—

It may be no harm to call attention to a singular mistake that we have noticed in a recent issue of a Southern contemporary in reference to University affairs.

In the *Cork Examiner* of Tuesday last, a paragraph announcing an award of Scholarships in the Faculties of Law and Engineering in the Queen's College, Cork, is announced under the high-sounding title of "University Intelligence."

Our contemporary, usually so well informed on local affairs, is apparently unaware of the change in the status of the Queen's College that has resulted from the dissolution of the Queen's University. During the brief lifetime of that anomalous academic body, the three Queen's Colleges were Colleges of the University, and in this sense their proceedings were usually, by a not unfair stretch of courtesy, described under the title of "University" intelligence. But all this has now passed away. The three Queen's Colleges are in no sense of the term University Colleges. Their awards of prizes and Scholarships cannot without inaccuracy be described as in any sense "University" intelligence. Their sole connection with University affairs is through the examinations of the Royal University. Whether that connection is not one that, in merciful consideration for the students, especially of Cork, had better be left in the background, is a point on which the Analysis of the Royal University lists, recently published by us, leaves, we think, but little room for doubt.

This reference to our Analysis reminds us that the protracted hesitancy of the learned Presidents of Cork and Galway to follow the example of their Belfast colleague has all but exhausted our patience. It is, we feel, unfair to Dr. Porter to leave his letter, which we published some weeks ago, so long without reply. We have already intimated our unwillingness to reply to it as dealing merely with one section of the case. Besides, our Analysis was concerned chiefly with the failure of the Colleges in Cork and Galway. Are we to suppose that Drs. Sullivan and Moffat are disinclined to follow the example of Dr. Porter?

Of the three Colleges, Belfast is surely the one that might with least suspicion of want of confidence in its case, have declined to notice

our criticism on its comparative want of success. Yet Belfast is the only College that has attempted even the form of a defence. That the Presidents of Cork and Galway have made up their minds to allow judgment to go by default is apparently the only explanation that can be given of their long silence. That silence has been strongly emphasised by the venturesome letter of the President of Belfast—a letter to which we shall feel at liberty within a very few days to reply, if in the meantime the Presidents of the Colleges of the South and West do not put us in a position to deal with the question, once for all, as a whole.

### III.

Eventually, no communication having in the meantime been received from the Presidents of the other Colleges, the following reply to Dr. Porter's letter was published in the *Freeman's Journal*:—

More than a month has now elapsed since we published in these columns a letter from the Rev. Dr. Porter, President of the Queen's College, Belfast, in reference to our analysis of the Prize and Honour Lists of the Royal University of Ireland. We can well understand that the Presidents of institutions so munificently endowed by Parliament as the three Queen's Colleges of Ireland, must have felt themselves placed in a position of no ordinary embarrassment by the damaging disclosures to which public attention was called by the publication of our analysis. As was shown, however, by the analysis, a line of distinction might well be drawn between the Belfast College, as a moderately successful institution, and those of Cork and Galway, the failure of which had been so conclusively established. It was but natural, then, that Dr. Porter, the President of Belfast, should decide upon isolating himself from his less fortunate colleagues, at least to this extent, that instead of taking refuge in the ignoble policy of silence, he would make some effort to extricate his own College from the difficulties that might seem to imperil even its existence if some such line of distinction were not clearly drawn.

Whether intended or not by Dr. Porter, the drawing of this line is manifestly the main result of his letter to us. When publishing his letter we announced our intention of withholding our reply to such points in it as seemed to call for reply, until a full opportunity had been afforded to the Presidents of Cork and Galway to follow, if they

felt themselves in a position to follow, the example of Dr. Porter. Dr. Porter, we trust, will feel satisfied that it was from no discourtesy to him that we have waited so long. We feel, however, that it could not but seem discourteous were our reply to be still further delayed. And there is, in fact, no reason why we should any longer withhold it. Of the three Colleges, as we observed some weeks ago, Belfast is surely the one that might with least suspicion of want of confidence in its case have declined to notice our criticism. When we find, then, that Belfast is the only College that has attempted even the form of a defence, we cannot but conclude that the Presidents of Cork and Galway, finding it impossible to follow the example of their Northern colleague, have definitely made up their minds to face the worst, and to allow judgment to go by default.

So far, indeed, as Dr. Porter's letter is concerned with claiming for the students of his College a moderate success in the Examinations of the Royal University—a claim so hopelessly beyond the reach of the Presidents of the Colleges of the West and South—we do not feel ourselves called upon to deal with it as a subject for reply. In this respect it merely emphasises a statement made by ourselves, in the course of our analysis.

There are, as we have more than once pointed out, two distinct questions involved in this matter of Queen's College endowments—the question of the absolute withdrawal of the Parliamentary grants from the three Colleges; and the question of the withdrawal from them, and the transfer to the Royal University, of that special portion of those grants which at present enables each College to confer each year upon its own students, free from the competition of outsiders, a large number of most valuable prizes, prizes far exceeding in amount those that can be awarded in open competition by the Royal University. It is in reference only to the second of those questions that we have dealt at all with the case of the Belfast College.<sup>1</sup> As a matter of elementary justice it is clear that the maintenance of any such system of monopoly is indefensible in Belfast, no less than in Galway or in Cork. But as to the question of the absolute withdrawal of the grants from the Colleges, the case of Belfast is, as we have throughout been careful to indicate, a case that has undoubtedly a fair claim to be treated on special grounds. On this point nothing could be more distinct than the statement made by us in one of the sections of our

<sup>1</sup> See pages 10, 12, 24, &c.

analysis, that “the question of the withdrawal of the public grants from the three Colleges” is one that “may possibly be settled by a compromise, in which the present status of the Belfast College may not be very materially altered.”

To avoid all possible danger of misconception upon the important point thus raised, we think it well here to reproduce the tabulated statements of our analysis, in which were set forth the results of the work of the three Queen’s Colleges, as ascertained by the official lists of the Royal University in those examinations which as yet are open only to students, past or present, of those three colleges. The tables are as follows :

#### B.A. EXAMINATION.

|  | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|--|---------|------|--------|
| Number of Graduates admitted to B.A. from each College ... | 23      | 13   | 9      |

#### SECOND UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION IN ARTS (PASS).

|  | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|--|---------|------|--------|
| Number of Students from each College who passed the examination ... .. | 31      | 10   | 15     |

#### SECOND UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION (HONOURS).

|                       | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|-----------------------|---------|------|--------|
| In Latin ... ..       | 7       | —    | 3      |
| Greek ... ..          | 4       | 1    | 3      |
| English ... ..        | 2       | —    | 3      |
| Logic .. ...          | 5       | 2    | 2      |
| Mathematics ... ..    | 3       | —    | 1      |
| Math. Physics ... ..  | 3       | 1    | 1      |
| Exper. Physics ... .. | 1       | —    | 1      |
|                       | 25      | 4    | 13     |



Or, if the list be arranged in reference to the distinction of 1st and 2nd Class Honours, and of Exhibitions, similarly classified, it may be set forth as follows :—

|                            |     | Belfast | Cork | Galway |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|------|--------|
| First-class Exhibitions... | ... | 1       | —    | —      |
| Second-class do.           | ..  | 3       | —    | 2      |
| First-class Honours        | ... | 14      | 1    | 3      |
| Second-class do.           | ... | 11      | 3    | 10     |
|                            |     | 29      | 4    | 15     |

Thus, as we have shown, the Belfast College has done, and we have no doubt is doing, fairly good work—inferior, indeed, to that done in more than one of the unendowed Colleges of the Catholic University of Ireland, but still in all probability sufficient to avert from it the doom that in these days of legislative reform cannot be slow to overtake the Colleges of Cork and Galway, as at present constituted, now that their practical failure in that which is the main work of University education has been so thoroughly exposed.

Dr. Porter is fully justified in proclaiming the fact that the students of Queen's College, Belfast, when tried by the impartial test of the Royal University Examinations, have not been altogether unsuccessful. He dwells with evident satisfaction on the case of those first year's students who were in competition at the University with the students of the unendowed Colleges. Taking, as he is undoubtedly justified in doing, his most distinguished students, the winners of his College Scholarships, he points out, with something like pride, that the names of several of them appear, in a more or less distinguished way, upon the Honour Lists, and even upon the Exhibition Lists, of the University. His "first Scholar" in literature, he tells us, took in the open competition of the University "first class honours in Latin, second class in Greek, and also first class in Mathematics;" another Belfast "literary Scholar" took "first class honours in Latin and second class in English;" and so on. Thus Dr. Porter enumerates no fewer than 14 University Honours attained by the holders of his College Scholarships, whether "literary" or "scientific." "We have no reason," he remarks, apparently with satisfaction, "to feel ashamed of the foregoing list." Certainly not. Whatever may

be the feelings of the Presidents of the other no less favoured but decidedly less successful institutions, Belfast at least need not feel altogether ashamed of the winners of its College Scholarships. With its sister institutions in Cork and Galway it finds itself each year, by the obstinate persistence of Parliament, entrusted with an equal share in the allocation of over £1,000 as prize money, to be awarded as entrance prizes, to entice students to enter what Dr. Porter describes as its "open doors." But, unlike Cork and Galway, it has found at least some students to whom it may award those valuable prizes without being "ashamed" to point to the official record of their attainments as tested by the open competition of the Royal University. The names of some of the Belfast Entrance Scholars appear, in one way or another, in 14 places on the University Honour Lists of its Matriculation Examination. The names of the Galway Scholars appear but twice! And the same is the sad story of Cork!

We must not, however, allow it to be supposed that it was left to Dr. Porter to bring to light the comparative success, such as it is, of the holders of his College Scholarships. The opening sentences of his letter<sup>1</sup> might seem, indeed, to convey that while the accuracy of every statement in our analysis was beyond question, we had not told "the whole truth," and that it was to make up for our shortcoming in this respect that he found it necessary to write. But any such impression would be totally at variance with fact. The 14 University Honours of the Belfast Scholars were fully set forth by us. And as to speaking "the whole truth," the practical difference between Dr. Porter's statement and ours is this, that while he has very pardonably set forth merely his own side of the case, we, in our anxiety to speak "the whole truth," had set forth in one tabulated statement the whole state of the case as regards these Scholarships, contrasting on the one hand the comparative success of the Belfast "scholars" with the all but absolute failure of those of Cork and Galway; and on the other hand, contrasting the poor success of the Scholars of the three Queen's Colleges (Belfast included) with the marvellous results scored to the credit of the students of the unendowed Catholic Colleges of Ireland. As our best answer to Dr. Porter's enumeration of the Belfast Scholars' 14 University Honours, taken in connection with his desire to have "the whole truth" spoken, it may be well to reprint from our analysis this tabulated statement. In it are set forth "the numbers of

<sup>1</sup> See page 39.

students to whom honours and prizes were awarded at the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University, considering on the one hand the students among whom the Entrance Scholarships of the three Queen's Colleges have since been distributed ; and, on the other hand, the students of the unendowed Catholic Colleges." Our statement, thus introduced, was as follows :—

#### ROYAL UNIVERSITY HONOURS AT MATRICULATION.

| Awarded to   |     |     |  | Latin | Greek | French, &c. | English | Mathematics | Physics | Total |
|--|-----|-----|--|-------|-------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------|
| Belfast Scholars                                   | ... | ... |  | 2     | 2     | 1           | 4       | 3           | 2       | 14    |
| Cork do.   | ... | ... |  | —     | —     | —           | 1       | 1           | —       | 2     |
| Galway do.   | ... | ... |  | 1     | —     | —           | —       | 1           | —       | 2     |
| Total awarded to Queen's College Scholars          |     |     |  | 3     | 2     | 1           | 5       | 5           | 2       | 18    |
| Awarded to students of unendowed Catholic Colleges |     |     |  | 11    | 5     | 11          | 12      | 2           | 3       | 44    |
| Total  |     |     |  | 14    | 7     | 12          | 17      | 7           | 5       | 62    |

#### ROYAL UNIVERSITY EXHIBITIONS AT MATRICULATION.

| Awarded to   |     |     |  | 1st Class Exhibitions | 2nd Class Exhibitions | Total |
|--|-----|-----|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| Belfast Scholars                                   | ... | ... |  | —                     | 5                     | 5     |
| Cork "   | ... | ... |  | —                     | —                     | —     |
| Galway "   | ... | ... |  | —                     | —                     | —     |
| Total awarded to Queen's College Scholars          |     |     |  | —                     | 5                     | 5     |
| Awarded to Students of unendowed Catholic Colleges |     |     |  | 5                     | 9                     | 14    |
| Total  |     |     |  | 5                     | 14                    | 19    |

Whatever, then, may be said of Cork and Galway, Belfast, as Dr. Porter remarks, has "no reason to be ashamed" of the record of its comparative success. But it may be no harm to point out that results more positively satisfactory may fairly be looked for if results are to be pleaded in justification of the further maintenance of the system of Parliamentary favour represented by the Scholarships of the

three Queen's Colleges. That system has hitherto been kept in existence only by munificent grants of public money voted year after year by Parliament. Those grants have been voted in the supposed interests of higher education, but, at the same time, in disregard of the steadfast refusal of the main body of the Catholics of Ireland to have any share in the tempting bribes held out to them, on condition of their sanctioning by accepting them a system of education condemned by the supreme authority of their Church as intrinsically dangerous both to faith and to morals. If the result, even in the one moderately successful College be merely such that the College authorities need not feel altogether "ashamed" of it, the system plainly has not long to live.

And here, upon another point of very substantial importance, we must join issue with Dr. Porter. Feeling apparently how indefensible is the claim, even of Belfast, to retain for its students the exclusive enjoyment of the substantial prizes provided for them, to the value of many hundreds of pounds each year, out of the public funds voted by Parliament, Dr. Porter has recourse to the desperate expedient of representing his Queen's College Scholarships as fully open to the Catholics of Ireland! Those Scholarships, it must be remembered, are tenable only by students of the Queen's Colleges; yet, says Dr. Porter, "competition is open to all!" "There are no restrictions of any kind!" "The door is open!" "We are ready to welcome candidates from any school, or college, or family in the empire!" "It is misleading"—here perhaps it is right to interrupt our quotation for the purpose of assuring our readers that throughout we are transcribing Dr. Porter's very words—"it is misleading to assert or insinuate that our Scholarships are restricted to any class, or school, or denomination!" "They are open on equal terms to all who choose to compete for them—as open as those of the Royal University itself!"

In reply to this series of statements we might fairly quote the declaration so explicitly and, we may add, so authoritatively made by his Grace the Duke of Abercorn, speaking in his official capacity as Chancellor of the Royal University at its recent inaugural meeting. It was, as his Grace declared, precisely because the honors and emoluments of the Queen's University and its Colleges were not really open on equal terms to Catholics that the Royal University was established by Parliament and by the Crown.<sup>1</sup> We prefer, however, to transcribe a few sentences from the masterly address delivered in Magee College,

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, page 4.



Derry, at the opening of the present session by Professor Leebody, himself a distinguished and most highly honoured graduate of Belfast.

"It is quite true," said Dr. Leebody, "that the Irish student who prefers to be educated in a College under the control of his own Church may be told that his disabilities are self inflicted, and that everybody is at liberty to attend Queen's Colleges. By a parity of reasoning, no man in Ireland, prior to 1868, had any reason to complain that he belonged to a Church which was unestablished and unendowed; for the Protestant Church as by law established would gladly have welcomed every Irishman within the precincts of her fold. There are people who can be hindered as effectually from taking a particular course by conscientious scruples as by physical restraint, and the late Government recognised this fact when they meddled with the Irish University question at all."

This, then, is our answer to Dr. Porter. The doors of his College, no doubt, are open to all who chose to enter them. But they are not more open than were the doors of the Protestant cathedrals and parish churches of Ireland, when the Protestant Church was as yet established and endowed. We are not aware that so futile a plea as that now raised by Dr. Porter, in the vain hope of maintaining his present monopoly of College prizes, was ever dreamt of as available in defence of the older and more venerable monopoly of ecclesiastical endowments. Assuredly, if it had been, it would not have stayed for a single day the reforming hand of any English statesman. And we cannot but regard the fact of such a plea being now put forward by the President of the Belfast College, in any other light than as a final proof that the exposure effected by the official publication of the Royal University lists has reduced the defenders of the doomed monopoly of the Queen's College Scholarships to the last extremity of despair.

There remains, so far as we can see, but one other point in Dr. Porter's letter that seems in any way to call for comment or reply. In explanation of the fact revealed by our analysis, that even in Belfast, the College Scholarships had from sheer necessity to be awarded, in very many instances, to students whose names do not appear in any place, however low, on the list of Exhibitioners at the corresponding examination in the Royal University, Dr. Porter makes the following statement. "Scholarships in Queen's College, he says, "are awarded on an entirely different principle from that on which Exhibitions are awarded in the Royal University. Proficiency in classical learning and English is the chief requisite in competing for

a literary Scholarship. Proficiency in mathematics is essential to successful competition for a science Scholarship." The Exhibitions in the Royal University "are given for the highest aggregate of marks in five subjects—Latin, Greek or some modern language, Mathematics, English, and Experimental Physics. An average general score secures an Exhibition; but a specialist, however distinguished, whether in classics or mathematics, has little chance of success." "This," he adds, "is proved by the result of the recent examinations . . . It is consequently misleading to institute a comparison between the Scholars of Queen's College and the Exhibitioners of the Royal University."

All this, no doubt, looks plausible enough. The difference to which Dr. Porter refers in the mode of awarding the Scholarships and the Exhibitions undoubtedly exists. But this difference, as we shall presently show, furnishes no explanation whatever of the shortcomings of the Queen's College students as tested by the University competition. And that Dr. Porter should have referred to it in explanation of the case in question is, we must say, explicable only on the supposition that he was altogether unaware of the facts officially recorded in the University lists, and explicitly set forth in that section of our analysis to which he undertook to reply.

Before, however, coming directly to the issue to which Dr. Porter's rash assertion has challenged us, let us ask why is it that the Royal University has adopted the principle of awarding its Exhibitions on "the highest aggregate of marks" all round, rather than the principle on which the Queen's Colleges award their Scholarships, that is to say, for special merit in special subjects or in special departments of learning?

The answer is a simple one. The fact is that the Queen's Colleges, based though they are on the principle of monopoly, are so richly endowed by Parliament that they can fully afford thus to distribute their prizes. The Royal University on the other hand, though obliged to throw open its competition to all comers (the students of the favoured Queen's Colleges included), is at the same time so inadequately endowed as to be unable to adopt any such principle of distribution. The Queen's Colleges, out of an income every penny of which is drawn from the public purse, are enabled each year to award to their own students then entering the colleges a sum of no less than £1,050. Thus each college is enabled each year to distribute among its own students at entrance Scholarships to the amount of £350. With such

sums provided for them by Parliament they can well afford to divide their Scholarships into two classes, "literary" and "scientific." "Specialists," whether "literary" or "scientific," can here find abundant reward. The Royal University, on the other hand, is unable, from its stinted resources, to set apart more than £480 as the maximum sum available for Exhibitions at entrance. Even this allotment must, as a measure of economy, be fenced round with a number of restrictions, a very practical illustration of the result of which is furnished by the fact that under the pressure of the rules thus necessarily imposed, the amount awarded this year was but £336—a smaller sum, *to be distributed among the successful students of all Ireland, Queen's College students included*, than any one of the three Queen's Colleges is enabled by the munificence of Parliament to squander in rewarding the most moderate degrees of so called "special merit," whether "literary" or "scientific," as exhibited in the restricted competition *of its own students*, within its own walls.

But taking the case as it stands, what are we to think of Dr. Porter's putting forward this difference of principle in the mode of awarding the College and University Scholarships and Exhibitions as a sufficient explanation of the failure of the Belfast Scholars to secure even fairly prominent places on the Exhibition Lists of the University?

Let us examine a test case, the only case, in fact, to which we called special attention in our analysis, and in explanation of which, therefore, we should presume that Dr. Porter has made his elaborate statement as above transcribed. The case thus selected by us was the case apparently most favourable to the Queen's Colleges, that of the student whose name heads the list of Belfast Queen's College Scholars in the "literary" division—Robert M'Neill. Our comment on the case was that, although thus prominent among his fellows in the college competition, and consequently rewarded with a College Scholarship of £24, this student had failed in the open competition of the University to obtain a place of any kind among the First-class Exhibitioners, and had obtained, in fact, only 8th place on the general Exhibition list, thus winning merely a second-class exhibition of £12. We stated also that in the places of honour, before him on the exhibition list, stand the names of—

|                |     |                                     |
|----------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Dwyer, Michael | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg ; |
| Griffin, Henry | ... | French College, Blackrock ;         |
| Conan, Arthur  | ... | French College, Blackrock ; and,    |
| Nolan, Pierce  | ... | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg.  |

These are the facts of the case. We have already set forth

Dr. Porter's statement in explanation of them. Let us now see how far it is available for his purpose.

It is "misleading," he tells us, to compare the College Scholarships with the University Exhibitions. The Scholarships are awarded for special merit in special subjects; the Exhibitions for an aggregate general score. He also informs us that for his "literary" Scholarships, the subjects in which this special merit is tested are three—Latin, Greek, and English. The inference of course is, that if the University Exhibitions, instead of being awarded on general excellence all round, had been awarded for excellence in those three special subjects, we should have found at the head of the list, not a representative of the "mere general average" scholarship that is to be picked up in such comparatively insignificant institutions as the Jesuit College of Tullabeg, or the French College, Blackrock, but a distinguished "specialist," such as the first "literary" Scholar of Queen's College, Belfast.

We are really at a loss to account for Dr. Porter's having ventured on so strange a line of defence. What are the facts of the case? In each of the three subjects to which he has himself referred us as the ground of the award of the Belfast literary scholarships, his first literary Scholar and "specialist" has been beaten by every one of the four students whom Dr. Porter seeks to decry as having won their exhibitions only by their aggregate score!

Here are the three lists, so far as we are thus concerned with them. In each case is indicated the score attained in the subject by each candidate :—

#### LATIN.

|                 |     |                                    |
|-----------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Nolan, Pierce   | 902 | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| Griffin, Henry  | 887 | French College, Blackrock.         |
| Dwyer, Michael  | 866 | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| Conan, Arthur   | 853 | French College, Blackrock.         |
| M'NEILL, ROBERT | 803 | Belfast Academy.                   |

#### GREEK.

|                 |     |                                    |
|-----------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Griffin, Henry  | 674 | French College, Blackrock.         |
| Dwyer, Michael  | 646 | St. Stanislaus' College.           |
| Conan, Arthur   | 635 | French College, Blackrock.         |
| Nolan, Pierce   | 554 | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| M'NEILL, ROBERT | 520 | Belfast Academy.                   |

#### ENGLISH.

|                |     |                                    |
|----------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Dwyer, Michael | 975 | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |
| Griffin, Henry | 843 | French College, Blackrock.         |
| Conan, Arthur  | 776 | French College, Blackrock.         |
| Nolan, Pierce  | 707 | St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg. |



On this third list—the list of University Honourmen in English, one of Dr. Porter's three “literary” subjects—the name of the Belfast “literary specialist” does not appear at all!

Here, then, we bring our comments on Dr. Porter's letter to a close. It is unpleasant to have been obliged thus pointedly to call attention to the case of an individual student, especially of one whose merit, though it has not as yet obtained for him a place in the front rank of University distinction, is sufficiently well attested by the University to claim from us a sincere expression of respect. But the President of his college—a college to which he will yet, we are justified in assuming, bring honour in the Royal University—has forced upon us the necessity of discussing the case as we have done.

Dr. Porter has endeavoured to account for the failure of his Queen's College Scholars to win First Class Exhibitions at the recent Matriculation Examination of the University, by the plea that the College Scholarships are awarded for “special” merit, “literary” or “scientific,” whilst a University Exhibition may be secured by a “general average score.” Having carefully analysed the University lists, we find that in “special,” no less than in “general” merit, the foremost representative of the Belfast “literary specialists” was distanced by no fewer than four students of unendowed Catholic Colleges. We find, too, that these four students were thus pre-eminently successful not merely in their aggregate score in that class of subjects for special merit in which the Belfast “literary” scholarships are awarded. For, moreover, in each and every one of these subjects, Latin, Greek, and English, taken even separately, these same four students, in varying and singularly symmetrical order of relative merit among themselves, but always the same four, have totally outstripped the representative of the “literary specialism” of Belfast.

We have endeavoured, then, to deal with this typical case merely as an illustration of the absolute futility of Dr. Porter's plea. We trust we have succeeded in keeping our comment within this limit. We feel at all events that, as the result of this further analysis to which he has so rashly challenged us, we are fully justified in assuring Dr. Porter that he can hardly expect to secure for his monopoly the privilege of surviving those of Cork and Galway, if he is unable to defend it by weapons more serviceable than that on which in this instance he has so strangely placed his reliance.

[It may be well to add, that to this rejoinder Dr. Porter made no reply.]

## APPENDIX C.

## THE SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY.

It may be useful to subjoin, for the purpose of further comparison, a statement of the awards of the Scholarships, as distinct from the Exhibitions, of the Royal University

The number of Scholarships at present awarded each year by the Royal University is but 6. Each Scholarship, however, is tenable for three years, and is of the yearly value of £50. These, then, are the chief prizes of the University.

These Scholarships, while few in number, are individually of higher value than any of those awarded by the Queen's Colleges. And in reference to Dr. Porter's criticism on the University Exhibitions,<sup>1</sup> it may be well to add that these Scholarships, so far from being awarded for "general average" success, are, in even a stricter sense than the Queen's College Scholarships, established as the prizes of distinguished excellence in "special" subjects. They are thus distributed—2 in Classics, 2 in Mathematics, and 2 in Modern Literature.

The number of Scholarships thus far awarded by the Royal University, has been but 12 : that is to say, 6 in the first year of its working existence (1882), and 6 in the second year (1883).

The following is the result :—

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 1882.

## CLASSICAL.

- |                     |     |   |
|---------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Michael Scannell | ... | {*St. Brendan's Seminary, Killarney ;<br>**St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. |
| 2. Jeremiah Keane   | ... | {*St. Finbarr's Seminary, Cork ;<br>**St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.      |

## MATHEMATICAL.

- |                      |     |                              |
|----------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 1. Matthew J. Clarke | ... | **French College, Blackrock. |
| 2. James H. M. Woods | ... | Santry School.               |

## MODERN LITERATURE.

- |                       |     |   |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| 1. Joseph H. Böeken   | ... | **French College, Blackrock.                |
| 2. Edmund J. M'Weeney | ... | **Tutorial Department, Catholic University. |

<sup>1</sup> See page 41.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 1883.

## CLASSICAL.

- |                     |     |  |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Henry D. Griffin | ... | **French College, Blackrock.   |
| 2. Michael F. Dwyer | ... | {*St. Stanislaus' College, Tullabeg;<br>**St. Ignatius' College, S.J., Dublin. |

## MATHEMATICAL.

- |                                  |     |   |
|----------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. William M <sup>c</sup> F. Orr | ... | {Methodist College, Belfast;<br>Queen's College, Belfast. |
| 2. Charles Smith                 | ... | Private Study.  |

## MODERN LITERATURE.

- |                     |     |  |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Michael F. Dwyer | ... | {*St. Ignatius' College, Tullabeg;<br>**St. Ignatius' College, S.J., Dublin. |
| 2. Mary Hayden      | ... | Alexandra College, Dublin.   |

In these lists the names of Catholic Colleges are marked with an asterisk (\*); those of the Colleges of the Catholic University are marked with two asterisks (\*\*).

It will thus be seen that of the 12 Scholarships hitherto awarded by the Royal University, 8 have been won by students of Colleges of the Catholic University. Of the remaining 4, only 1 has been won by a Queen's College student, William M<sup>c</sup>F. Orr, of Belfast.

But even this solitary success cannot, it seems, be scored to the credit of the Queen's College. The following letter of Dr. Parker, the Head Master of the Methodist College, Belfast, is decisive on this point:—

## ROYAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE [BELFAST] MORNING NEWS.

SIR—In your report of the Royal University Scholarships Examinations you represent Mr. Orr, who obtained First Mathematical Scholarship on unusually high answering (92 per cent.), as being a student of the Queen's College, and by implication as having been prepared there for the Scholarship Examination.

As I find that your report has misled several persons, I think it due to Mr. Neill, Mr. Orr's teacher, to say that *Mr. Orr has been*

*prepared in this College exclusively, being in attendance here up to the day of examination.*

Mr. Orr obtained a Scholarship in the Queen's College, Belfast, in November, *but has not secured any assistance there towards the Scholarship Examination.*

Any credit, therefore, belonging to his brilliant success is due to the teaching he received in this College, and I am sure the Queen's College authorities would be the first to acknowledge this.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY R. PARKER, Head Master.

Methodist College [Belfast], Feb. 1, 1883.

#### APPENDIX D.

THE PARLIAMENTARY RETURN OF THE NUMBER OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ARTS NOW ATTENDING EACH OF THE QUEEN'S COLLEGES.

It is to be presumed that the favour hitherto shown by Parliament to the three Queen's Colleges has been based upon the belief that those Colleges have been doing substantial work, sufficient in amount and in quality to constitute a fair return for the large yearly outlay on their maintenance. The number of students in attendance in the Arts courses of the Colleges naturally suggests itself as one of the first points to be ascertained in testing how far this belief accords with the facts of the case.<sup>1</sup> The return, then, recently made on this subject, in compliance with an Order of the House of Commons, is one of considerable importance.

Among other points on which information was thus sought for on the motion of Sir Thomas McClure, M.P. for the County of Londonderry, were the following two :—

“The number of undergraduate students in Arts of the 1st and 2nd years, respectively, attending each of these Colleges; and

“The number of Arts students in attendance *who have passed the Matriculation Examinations of the Royal University* in 1881 and 1882.”

<sup>2</sup> See page 10, footnote (2).



The words here italicised call attention to a matter of vital moment in the consideration of the question thus raised. For, under a not unreasonable provision of the Act constituting the Royal University, all persons who at the time of the dissolution of the Queen's University, in February, 1882, were matriculated students of any of the Queen's Colleges, were admitted *ipso facto* as matriculated students of the Royal University. The requirements of the Matriculation Examination of the University, then, being confessedly a much more severe test than those of the Queen's College Examinations, it became a matter of the highest importance to ascertain the number of University students attending the Queen's Colleges *who have passed the Matriculation Examination of the University*, as distinct from those who have become University students merely by the fact of their having, before February, 1882, *passed the Matriculation Examination of one of the Queen's Colleges*.

The following is the return made on these points to the House of Commons :—

|   |             | The Queen's Colleges |      |        |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------|--------|
|   |             | Belfast              | Cork | Galway |
| The number of Undergraduate Students in Arts of the first and second years, respectively, attending each of these Colleges              | First Year  | 80                   | 14   | 17     |
|   | Second Year | 53                   | 11   | 15     |
| The number of Arts Students in attendance <i>who have passed the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University in 1881 and 1882</i> | 1881        | 77                   | 62   | 3      |
|   | 1882        | 69                   | 13   | 12     |

Of the returns thus made for the Colleges, that for Galway can alone be regarded as really furnishing the information sought for.

In the Galway College, then, we learn there are but 15 Art students of the 2nd year (entered in 1881), and but 17 of the 1st year (entered in 1882). Of the former, only *three*, and of the latter only *twelve*, making in all *fifteen*, have passed the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University. The state of things thus candidly disclosed, cannot indeed be regarded as satisfactory. But no fault can be found with the manner, open, distinct, and straightforward;

in which the questions from the House of Commons have in this instance been answered.

The return from Belfast is by no means so satisfactory. We do not in any way question its accuracy. But it is manifestly incomplete. The number of students of the 1st year is indeed distinctly stated as 80, of whom 69 have passed the University Matriculation. But the return of 77 students, as having "passed the University Matriculation" in 1881, is clearly not an answer to the question proposed. For we are informed in a footnote to the number thus set down, that it *includes students* "who were on the books of the College before the dissolution of the Queen's University, and who *became, by the terms of the Act*, Matriculated students of the University." In other words, it includes a number, and no doubt a very large number, of students who did *not* "pass the University Matriculation Examination" in 1881. And thus it manifestly fails to supply the important information so essential for accurately estimating the educational status of the College, and so explicitly asked for, beyond all possibility of mistake, by the House of Commons.

The return for Cork is still more unsatisfactory. It is not easy, indeed, to devise any mode of explaining it, that will keep it clear of conflict with known facts, or that will enable us even to regard its various statements as consistent with one another. The *total* number of undergraduate students in Arts, of the 1st and 2nd years, attending the Cork College is set down clearly enough as 25; of whom 14 are of the 1st, and 11 of the 2nd year. But then the number of Arts' students attending the College *who have passed the Matriculation Examinations of the Royal University* in 1881 and 1882 is represented as *three times this number!* For we are informed that 62 of the Arts' students of the College passed the University Examination in 1881, and 13 in 1882; thus making 75 in all.

We must confess that we are utterly at a loss to discover any key to the solution of the mystery involved in these figures. If there are 62 "Arts' students *in attendance*, who have *passed the Matriculation Examination of the Royal University* in 1881," how can it be that the *total* number of students in Arts of the 1st year is but 14, and of the 2nd year but 11?

But of these apparently conflicting statements we have little difficulty in conjecturing that those that set forth the smaller numbers are the correct ones.

If so, then, there are now in the Cork College but 14 Arts' students of the 2nd year, and but 11 of the 1st year ; making a total, for these two years, of 25 !

Still the question remains, and it is not devoid of interest, what do the figures 62 and 13, inserted in the Parliamentary return, represent ? Can it be that the students thus set down as Arts students, are not, in fact, Arts students, but students of some other Faculty ? The point, however it is to be explained, seems not unworthy of investigation.

## APPENDIX E.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT ON THE (ROYAL) UNIVERSITY BILL OF 1879.

It seems useful to publish, in connection with the Papers reprinted in this pamphlet, the following expressions of opinion from Hansard's report of the Discussions in Committee of the House of Commons, on the University Bill of 1879.

DR. LYON PLAYFAIR.—“If equality of education were the first demand of the Roman Catholics, this Bill certainly did not meet it. For where were the Roman Catholic Colleges in Ireland at all comparable to those well-ordered Colleges—Trinity College or the Queen's Colleges. . . .

“If the competition for Prizes and Scholarships were for relative merit, the Catholics would have no chance in such an unequal contest. . . .

“He (Mr. Playfair) would willingly support a scheme that would give the Roman Catholics well-organised Colleges of secular education comparable in efficiency to Trinity College and the Queen's Colleges. Without that there would be no equality. . . .

“This Bill did not settle Irish University Education.” (*Hansard*, vol. 249, pp. 214-219.)

THE O'CONOR DON.—“I suggested that if (the Queen's Colleges) were to retain their own Scholarships and Prizes, paid for out of public money, it was only fair that the Prizes given under this Bill should be restricted to others than students of those Colleges. . . .

"Since I made that statement I have been informed by the heads of the Catholic Colleges that they would entirely disapprove of this and that they were in favour of competing with the Queen's College students; that they were perfectly satisfied that they would be able to beat them; and that they do not want to have it said that these Prizes are given to them on a lower standard. . . .

"They have no fear whatever of that very high teaching that goes on in the Queen's Colleges. . . .

"They say the way to give them fair play would be to open the Prizes at present given by public money to endowed Institutions to competition amongst all classes of students. . . .

"I do not believe this Bill will settle the question." (*Ibid.* 219-223.)

MR. O'DONNELL.—"This Clause (Clause 11, Transfer of property) proposed to transfer the endowments<sup>1</sup> of the Queen's University to the new University. He (Mr. O'Donnell) wished also to transfer the public endowments of the Queen's Colleges. . . . He thought the endowments of the Queen's Colleges ought to be thrown into the common Fund."<sup>2</sup> (*Ibid.* 217.)

THE O'CONOR DON.—"Unless they had something of that sort they could not possibly have equality. . . .

"It would be unfair to give to the students of the Queen's Colleges the exclusive right to compete for the Prizes and Exhibitions provided out of the public funds and at present attached to those Colleges, and to allow them, in addition, to compete for the new Prizes. He thought it was so obvious an inequality that some alteration would have to be made. . . .

"One thing was quite certain, that so long as the inequality existed, the Queen's Colleges Estimates could never come before Parliament without the question being raised that their endowments should be thrown open to all students of the University."<sup>3</sup>—(*Ibid.* 272.)

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL—"Hon. members could hardly expect that the Queen's Colleges should all go at one blow. With respect to the Arts Department he (Sir G. Campbell) should certainly vote with the hon. member (Mr. O'Donnell)."—(*Ibid.* 273.)

<sup>1</sup> But see Introduction, pp. 3 and 4, footnote.

<sup>2</sup> See page 33, footnote (2).

<sup>3</sup> Yet, strange to say, four years have since elapsed without any such question having been raised in Parliament.



Mr. SHAW—"He (Mr. Shaw) would rather wait a year<sup>1</sup> to see the effect of the Bill."—(*Ibid.* 273.)

Mr. GRAY—"Observed that [a division on the Amendment proposed by Mr. O'Donnell] would show that the Irish members did not recognise this Bill as a settlement, so long as it preserved the anomaly of having endowed Colleges, and unendowed Institutions."—(*Ibid.* 276.)

Mr. PARNELL—"The Government would do well to admit the principle, either now, or next year; and certainly it would be better to admit it in time. . . .

"All this would render a wrangle and a struggle upon this question, next Session, a matter of inevitable necessity,<sup>1</sup> and would render a struggle on the Queen's Colleges Estimates also a matter of necessity; because if those Colleges were maintained without some counterbalancing advantage to the Catholic Colleges, there would be gross and clear inequality."—(*Ibid.* 276.)

Mr. LEONARD COURTNEY—"Government now had put a University on a basis it would be impossible to maintain. They could not maintain the endowments to the Queen's Colleges . . . and keep other students deprived of them. He (Mr. Courtney) was perfectly persuaded that the Bill now laid on the Table, would have to be completed, sooner or later, by the disendowment of the Queen's Colleges."<sup>2</sup> (*Ibid.* 277.)

<sup>1</sup> See footnote (3), page 67.

<sup>2</sup> See footnote (2), page 33.













